

REAL

SPECIAL EDITION

CRIME

INSIDE THE MINDS OF
HISTORY'S SICKEST CRIMINALS

ANNUAL

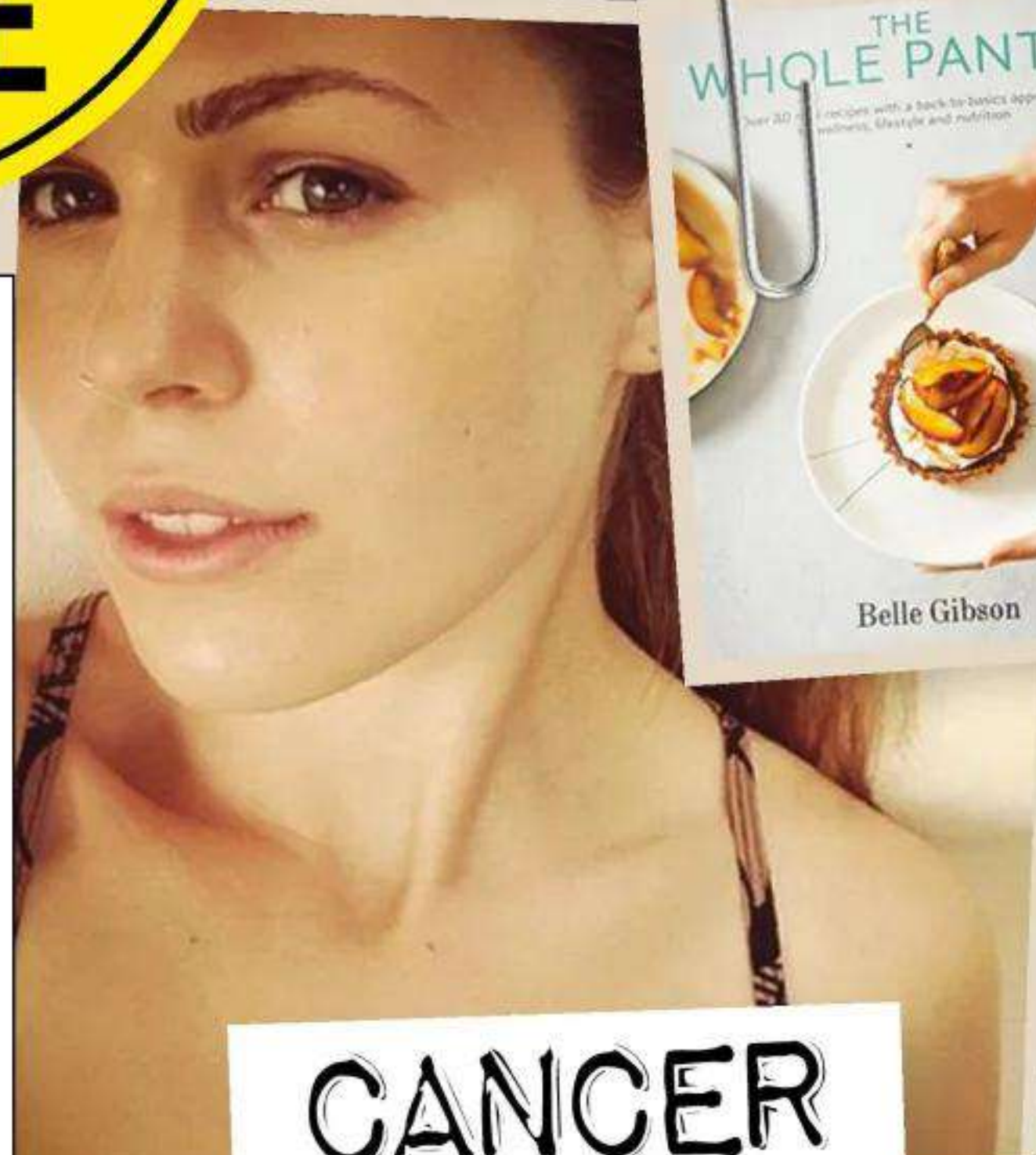
VOLUME 5

132
PAGES
OF TRUE
CRIME

Digital
Edition



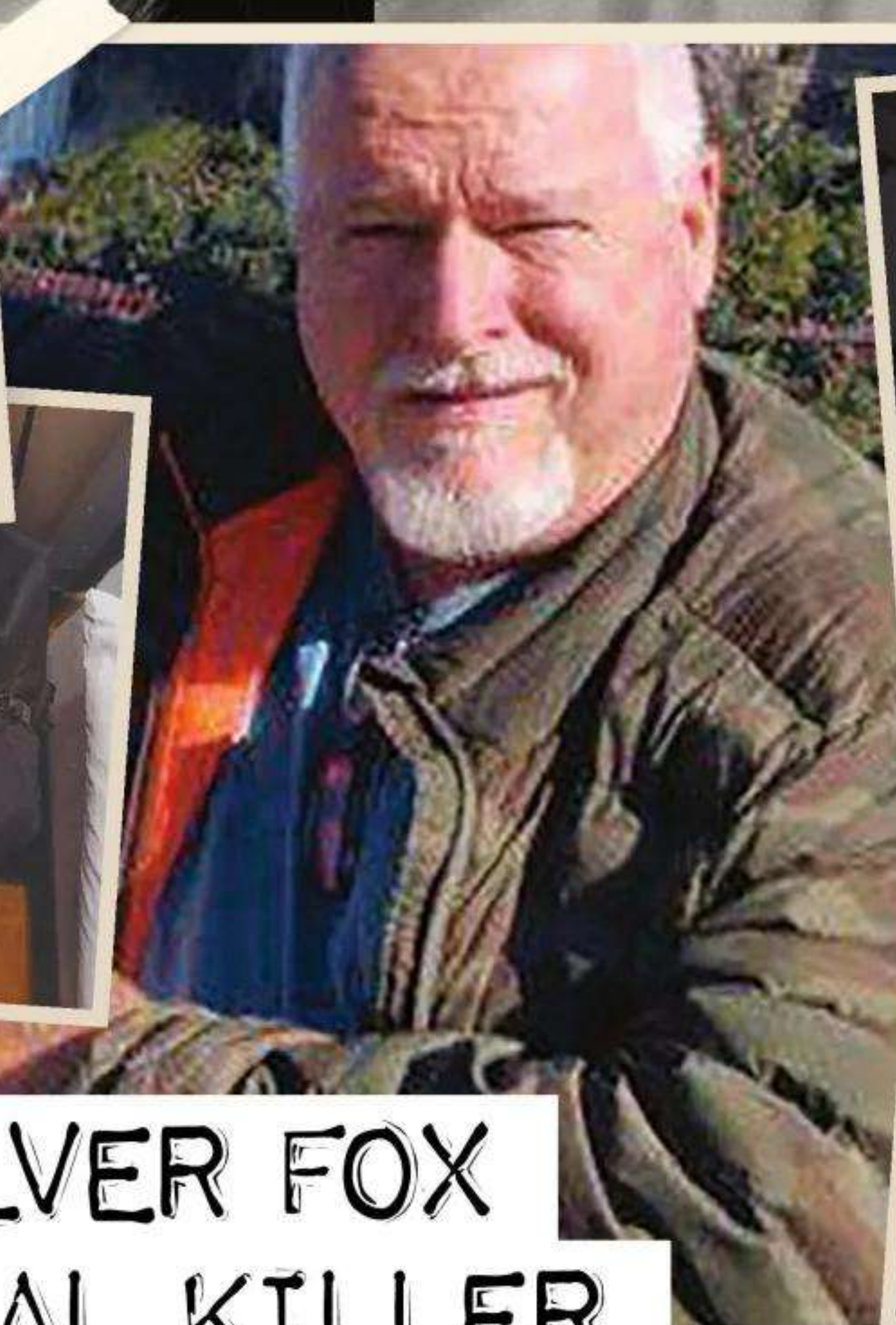
VOLUME 5



CANCER
CON ARTIST



SILVER FOX
SERIAL KILLER



BEING THE
GOVERNOR

WELCOME TO

**REAL
CRIME
ANNUAL**

2023 WAS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR REAL CRIME MAGAZINE, WITH OUR 100TH ISSUE HITTING THE NEWSSTANDS IN MARCH. SO WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THIS REMARKABLE MILESTONE THAN TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THE 100 MOST INFAMOUS CRIMES OF THE LAST CENTURY? TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT MORE. ELSEWHERE, DELVE INTO THE CASE THAT SHOCKED THE NATION AND FIND OUT HOW LUCY LETBY'S SICK CRIMES CAUGHT UP WITH HER.

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When killers express their murderous desires in written work, what does that tell us about their motivations?

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This near-fatal attack on backpackers in Salt Creek, Australia, was all too real for two brave women

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After half a century of fighting the system, is Charles Bronson ready to be released?

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With every thrust, this handsome stranger knew his ruptured rubber was leaking poison into his partner

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A picture is worth 1,000 words, but for forensic artist Michael Streed, it could stop a criminal in their tracks

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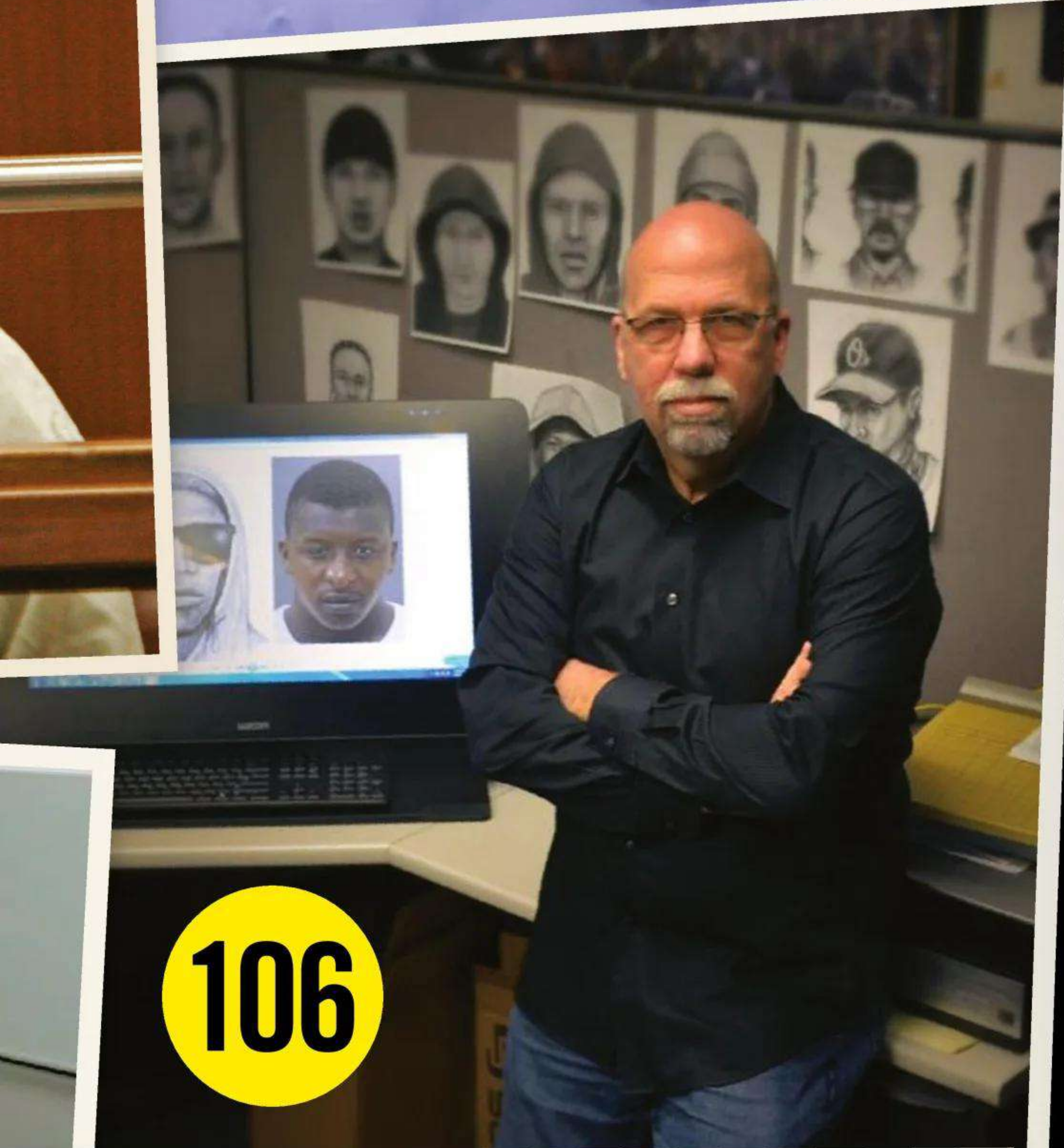
MELBOURNE'S UNDERBELLY

Dozens were killed as warring gangs played tit-for-tat in slayings in the suburbs across the city

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One Chicago biker was so respected he became the motorcycle club's unofficial 'don'



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CRIMES AND CRIMINALS OF THE LAST 100 YEARS

WORDS GAVIN MACKENZIE

Reported crime rates grew dramatically during the 20th century, peaking in the early 90s, and steadily falling since then. Of course, these trends aren't necessarily indicative of the numbers of crimes committed. The last 100 years have seen numerous new types of crime coming into law, as well as major shifts in the public's relationship with law enforcement.

Whether actual criminality has risen or fallen during the last century, one thing is for sure: our awareness of crime has risen dramatically. Crime has always been important fodder for news media, but the rise of television and the advent of the internet have brought crime reporting into our homes, and even into the palms of our hands, like never before.











Crime stories are now very much part of our everyday lives, and the victims and perpetrators of crime are the characters that inhabit them.

We're fascinated in many cases by the capacity for evil among criminals, while others emerge as anti-heroes, impressing us with their cunning, charm, or sheer bravado.

The crime and criminals on this list aren't necessarily the worst offences and offenders of the last 100 years – although many of them are no doubt appalling – they are those that have, for better or worse, most captured the imagination and attention of the general public.

From the twisted sexualities of Jeffrey Dahmer and Jimmy Savile, through the 'Robin Hood' charms of Pablo Escobar and Al Capone, to chilling unsolved mysteries like the Zodiac Killer or the disappearance of three-year-old Madeleine McCann, these are the most infamous crimes of the last 100 years.

CRIME KEY:

 MURDERER
  SERIAL KILLER
  MASS MURDERER
  FRAUD
  ORGANISED CRIME
 SEX OFFENDER
  UNSOLVED CASE
  DEATH CULT
  ROBBERY
  POLICE BRUTALITY

THE MURDER OF THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.

1997

In the early hours of 9 March, 1997, Christopher 'Notorious B.I.G.' Wallace was a passenger in a car driving across Los Angeles when he was targeted in a drive-by shooting. He received four gunshot wounds, one of which was fatal, and was pronounced dead at 1:15am. He was just 24 years old. Wallace's family have accused the LAPD of conspiring in his murder, while the LAPD has

insisted the shooting was retaliation for the killing of Tupac Shakur in a drive-by shooting the year before. No one has ever been arrested for the murder.



THE ZODIAC KILLER

1968 - 1969

Serial killers are driven by a compulsion to kill that typically escalates, making them feel more powerful, resulting in greater risk-taking until eventually they get caught. This is what makes the Zodiac Killer so unusual and intriguing. After killing at least five (probably many more), and taunting the police and media about it, the Zodiac Killer simply stopped. The case remains open, with police hopeful of finding new leads using the latest forensic technology.



JONESTOWN

1978

Until the World Trade Center attacks of 2001, the Jonestown massacre was the greatest loss of civilian American life caused by a single deliberate act. A total of 909 people, around a third of whom were children, died by cyanide – they either drank it in a soft drink or were forcefully injected with it – as instructed by Peoples Temple Agricultural Project leader, Reverend Jim Jones. Jones shot himself as his followers expired around him.



BONNIE AND CLYDE

1932 - 1934

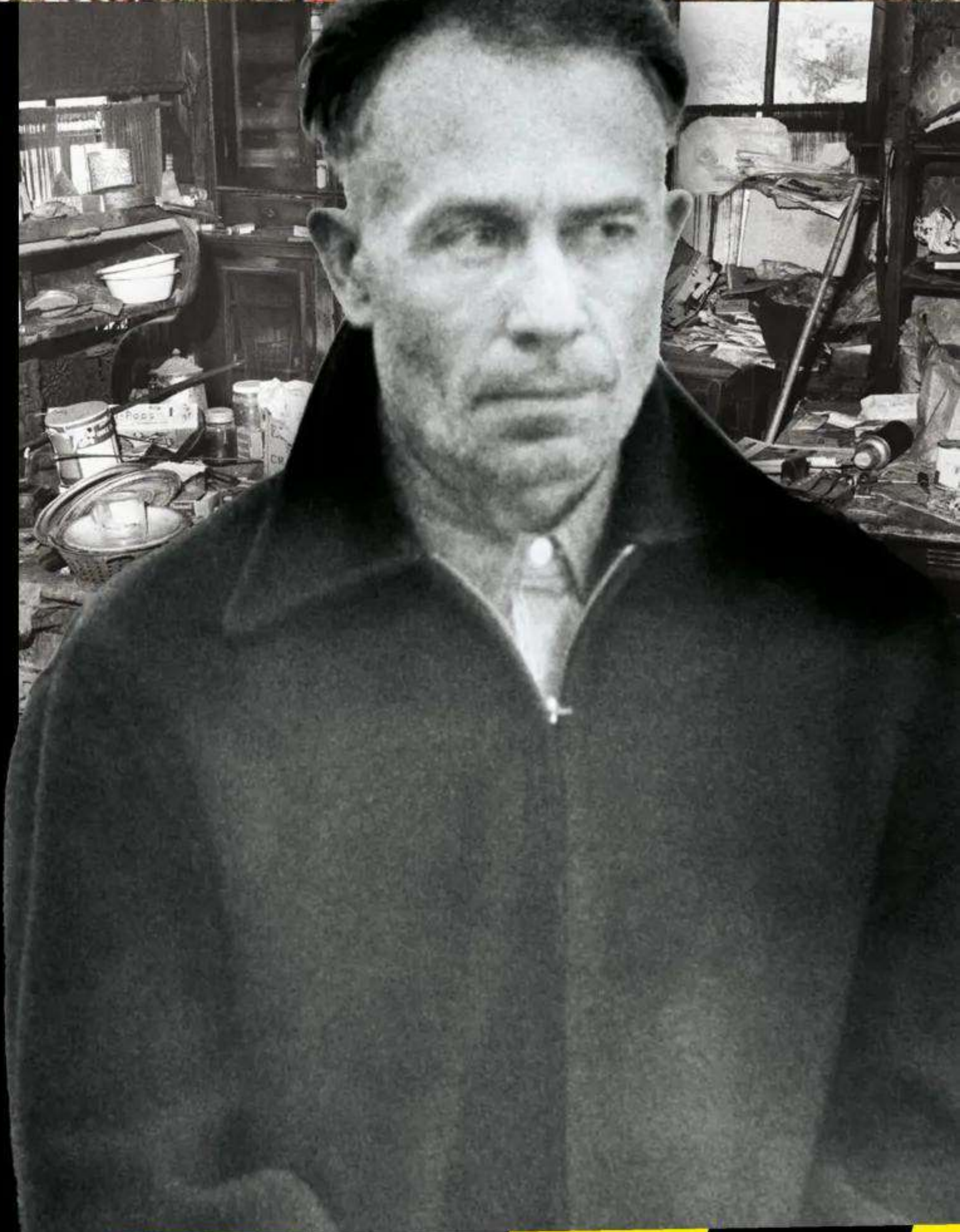
In a two-year crime spree, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow led the Barrow Gang, committing numerous robberies across the Central United States, and murdering nine police officers and four civilians along the way. They were apprehended in spectacularly violent fashion when a posse of heavily armed police officers ambushed their car, leaving 112 bullet holes in the car, 26 in Parker and 17 in Barrow.



ED GEIN

1947 - 1957

Ed Gein only confessed to two murders, but is nonetheless one of the most notorious of all serial killers thanks to his gruesome trophy collection, which included household items such as bowls and lampshades crafted from human body parts. Many of Gein's trophies came from his own victims (of which police suspected there were at least seven more), while others were taken from corpses he dug up from graveyards.



CHARLES BRONSON

1974 - 2014

This long-term UK jailbird is better known for his one-man prison riots than for the armed robberies that got him jailed in the first place.



JILL DANDO'S DEATH

1999

The popular TV presenter was shot on her own doorstep in broad daylight, and the killer has never been found.



THOMAS MAIR

2016

The far-right terrorist shot and stabbed Labour MP Jo Cox to death outside Birstall library.



DUNBLANE MASSACRE

1996

Thomas Hamilton burst into Dunblane Primary School and opened fire, killing 16 five- and six-year-old children and their teacher.



THE MURDER OF JAMES BULGER

1993

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, both 10 years old, abducted two-year-old James Bulger then tortured and killed him.



NICK LEESON

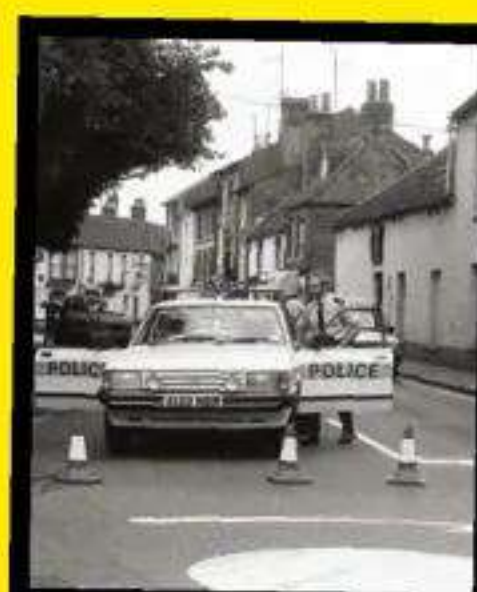
1992 - 1995

This stock market 'rogue' trader made unauthorised and illegal trades, losing the Barings Bank £827 million, resulting in its collapse.



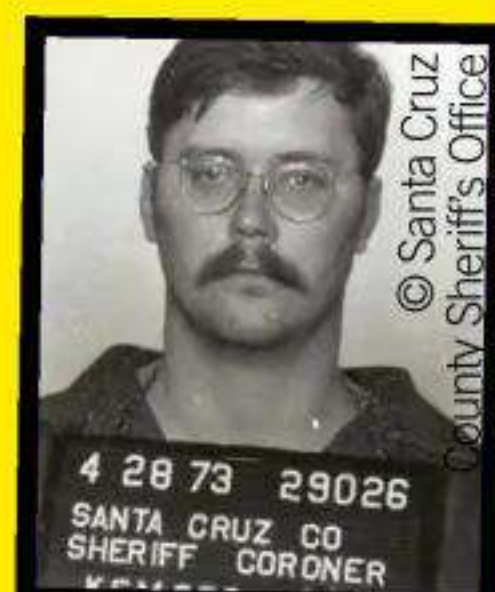
THE HUNGERFORD MASSACRE

1987
Michael Ryan roamed Hungerford and the surrounding area on a shooting rampage that left 17 dead and 15 injured.



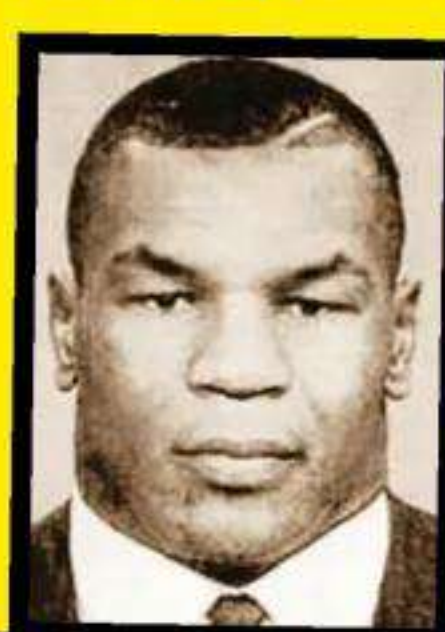
EDMUND KEMPER

1964 - 1973
Killed his grandparents as a teen, and later killed eight women, including his mother, whom he decapitated before abusing her head.



MIKE TYSON

1991
The legendary heavyweight boxing champion served three years in prison for the rape of 18-year-old Desiree Washington.



CARLO GAMBINO

1921 - 1976
This long-serving Mafia boss is said to have been an inspiration for the character of Vito Corleone in *The Godfather*.



MICHAEL JACKSON

1979 - 2003
The King of Pop faced child abuse charges but was acquitted at his 2005 trial. However, other abuse allegations resulted in expensive out-of-court settlements.



ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF BOB MARLEY

1976
Seven men stormed the reggae legend's home and opened fire. Bob, his wife, his manager and a band employee were shot but all survived.



THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER

1947

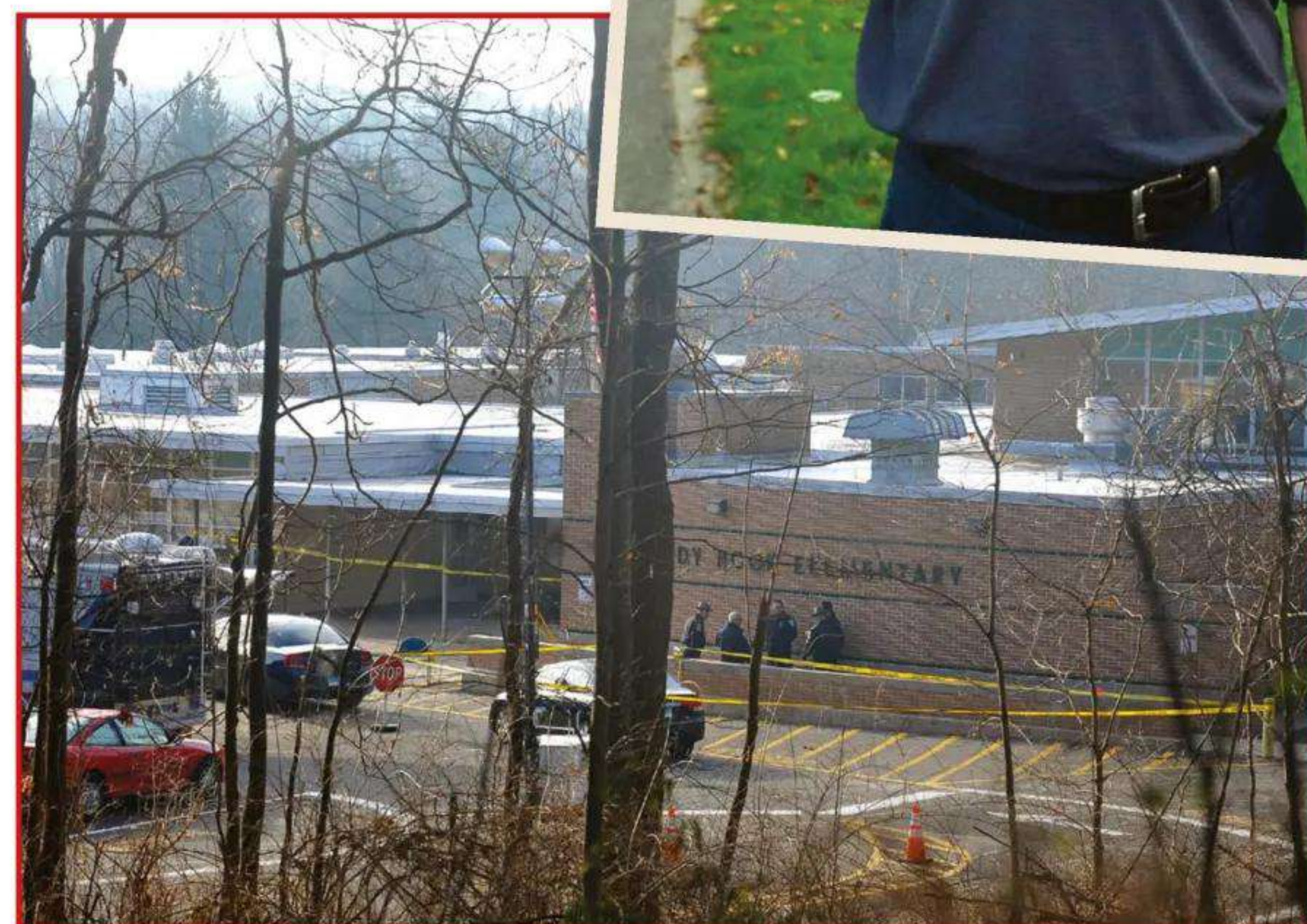
The body of Elizabeth Short was found on a Los Angeles street, bisected at the waist, exsanguinated, and with her body parts arranged in a manner similar to that of Minotaur, a work of the surrealist photographer Man Ray. Many, including his own family, believe that noted physician George Hodel was the killer, and that the murder was a grisly, 'anything you can do...' taunt directed at Man Ray. However, despite a high-profile investigation, no suspect was ever arrested.



IAN HUNTLEY

2002

During the summer of 2002, school caretaker Ian Huntley lured two 10-year-old girls, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, into his home. After a two-week search, the girls' bodies were found in a ditch 10 miles away. Huntley is serving double-life for their murders.



SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MASSACRE

2012

Armed with a semi-automatic rifle, Adam Lanza marched into Sandy Hook Elementary School and opened fire, killing six adults and 20 six- and seven-year-old children. Lanza also killed himself and his mother, and his motive has never been established.



RUDY GUEDE

2007

Amanda Knox and her boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito spent four years in an Italian prison for the murder of student Meredith Kercher, which was actually committed by Rudy Guede.

AILEEN WUORNOS

1989 - 1990

We often hear of male serial killers who target prostitutes, but Aileen Wuornos reversed these roles. While working as a street prostitute, she killed and robbed seven of her clients. Her self-defence plea was dismissed by a jury, and she received the death penalty. She was executed in 2002. While her crimes were no doubt heinous, Wuornos herself was a lifelong victim of sexual abuse.



50 CENT SHOOTING

2000

No one has ever been charged with shooting the rapper nine times, but both gangster Kenneth McGriff and Mike Tyson's bodyguard Darryl Baum have been suspected of the crime.

**CHICAGO TYLENOL MURDERS**

1982

An unknown killer laced paracetamol capsules with cyanide on the shelves of stores around the city, resulting in seven deaths.

**ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB MASSACRE**

2016

Omar Mateen entered the Pulse nightclub and began shooting indiscriminately. By the time police gunned him down, he had killed 49 people.

**TOKYO SUBWAY SARIN ATTACK**

1995

Members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult released sarin gas into the Tokyo subway, killing 14 and injuring around 5,500.

**VARG VIKERNES**

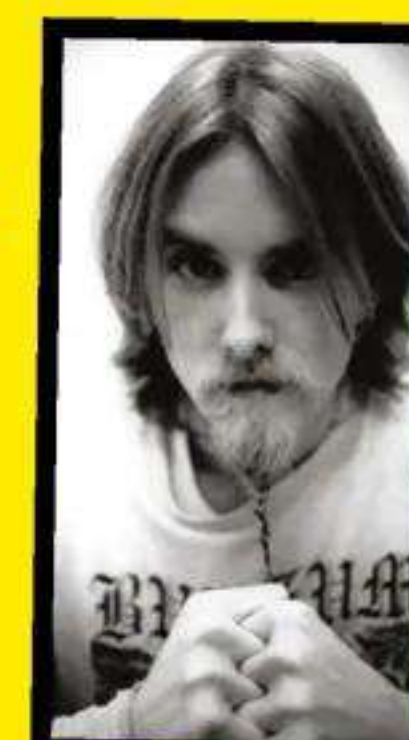
1993

A black metal musician also known as 'Count Grishnackh', Vikernes killed guitarist 'Euronymous' Aarseth by stabbing him 23 times.

**PARISIAN KARDASHIAN ROBBERY**

2016

TV personality Kim Kardashian was robbed at gunpoint in a Parisian apartment. The thieves took around £8.3 million worth of jewellery but were soon caught.

**JIMMY SAVILE**

1955 - 2009

Without wishing to trivialise the crimes of Jeffrey Epstein (see p.19), there are numerous ways in which Jimmy Savile was similar to the American billionaire, only somehow worse. The British DJ and TV presenter may not have been quite as rich, but he was arguably more powerful and influential. In his heyday, Savile was beloved by millions, including royals and top-level politicians, and ultimately proved untouchable as a result. He died at home aged 84, without ever having paid any kind of penalty for the hundreds of crimes he committed over a 54-year period.

Savile used his extensive charity work as a cover for at least 214 sex offences, 34 of which were rapes, and most of which were against girls under 18, one of whom was only eight years old. Many of his offences were committed against vulnerable people at the same hospitals and schools he volunteered at and raised money for. Absolutely sickening.

**THE RODNEY KING BEATING**

Despite video evidence of the excessive violence used against Rodney King, the four LAPD officers involved were acquitted, which in turn sparked the 1992 LA riots, in which 63 people died.

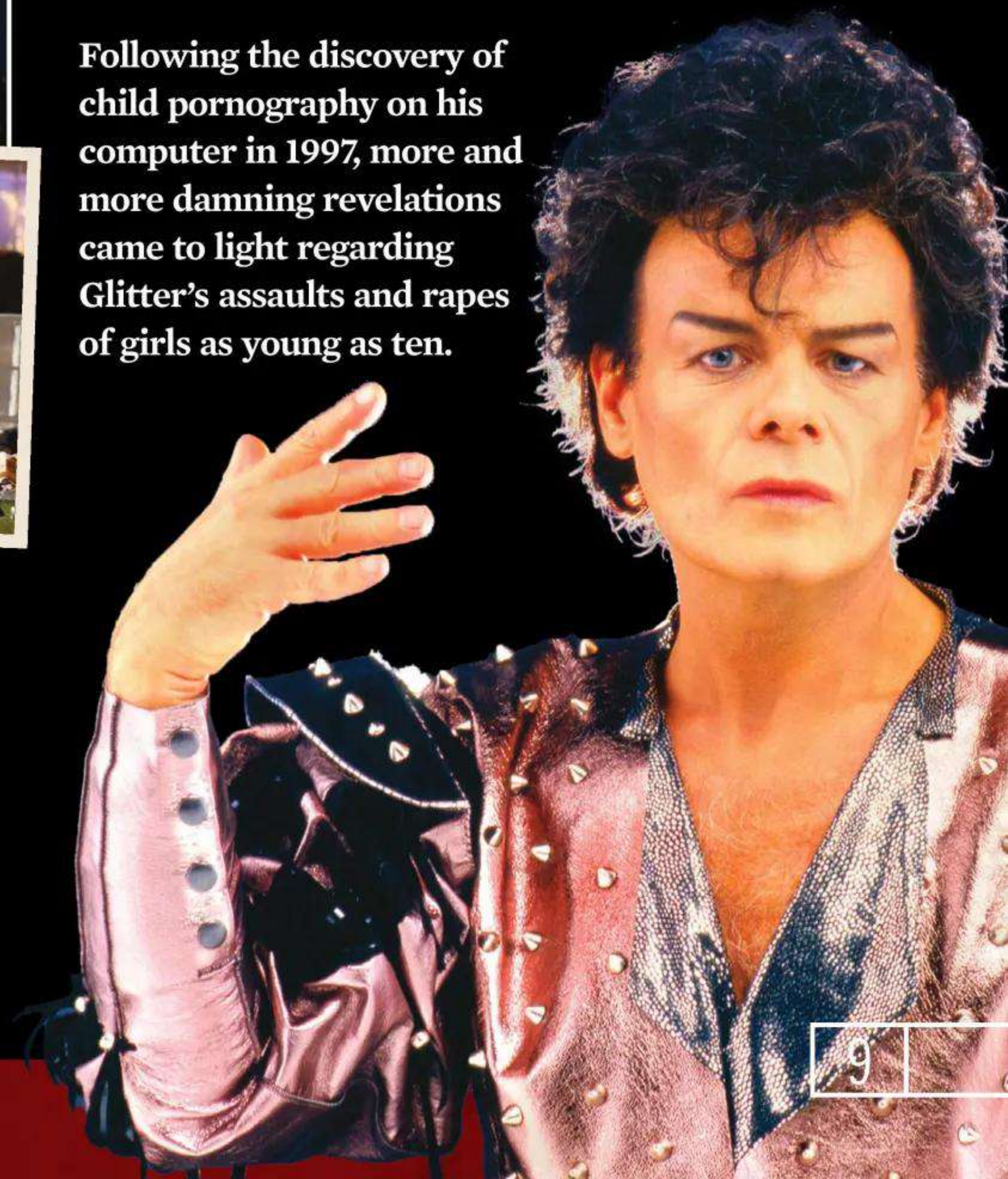
**THE LAS VEGAS MASSACRE**

The deadliest mass shooting in US history was committed by Stephen Paddock at the Route 91 Harvest music festival. Paddock fired more than 1,000 bullets from his hotel window, killing 60 people and injuring more than 800.

GARY GLITTER

1975 - 2005

Following the discovery of child pornography on his computer in 1997, more and more damning revelations came to light regarding Glitter's assaults and rapes of girls as young as ten.



KENNETH McDUFF

1966 - 1992

Kenneth McDuff has been nicknamed 'The Broomstick Killer', although he only used a broomstick in one of his nine confirmed murders. Prior to his first murder conviction, the Texas native had already done jail time for a string of burglaries, but had made parole

after serving just one year. After serving a couple of decades for triple-murder, the parole board made the fateful mistake of releasing McDuff in 1989 on the grounds that he could still "contribute to society", but all he did was kill at least six more people before finally being apprehended and executed.

McDuff's first confirmed killing was the triple-murder of teenagers Robert Brand, Edna Louise Sullivan, and Mark Dunman. He shot Brand and Dunman in the boot of their car before raping Sullivan and strangling her with a broomstick.

In 1991, McDuff recruited another accomplice, Alva Hank Worley, and the pair abducted Colleen Reed before raping her, torturing her with cigarettes, and killing her.

Roy Dale Green was McDuff's accomplice for the 'broomstick murders', but turned himself in the following day and confessed, leading to McDuff's arrest and conviction.

McDuff was granted parole in 1989, and is believed to have started killing again almost immediately. He's widely believed to have killed Sarafia Parker three days after his release, although he was never charged for her murder.

McDuff was eventually tracked down and arrested in May 1992, after a co-worker recognised him in a TV documentary. He was given the death penalty and executed by lethal injection in 1998.

PETER SUTCLIFFE

1975 - 1980

The Yorkshire Ripper killed 13 women, and tried to kill seven others, claiming the voice of God had told him to kill prostitutes. Sutcliffe died in November 2020 from Covid-19 complications.

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

1963

Led by criminal mastermind Bruce Reynolds, a gang of 15 robbed a Royal Mail train as it passed through Buckinghamshire, getting away with £2.3 million (about £38 million today). It was the biggest robbery in British history at the time.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

1995

Right-wing extremists Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols used a two-ton truck bomb to destroy the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma, killing 168 people, and injuring 680 more.

THE MOORS MURDERS

1963 - 1965

Ian Brady and Myra Hindley had conflicting accounts of who exactly did what to their victims, but it's nonetheless certain that both were involved in the brutal rapes and killings of five children on Saddleworth Moor near Manchester.

MIKHAIL POPKOV

1992 - 2010

A rapist, serial killer and necrophile, 'The Werewolf' murdered at least 78 women and one policeman in Russia and Siberia.



CHARLES LUCIANO

1916 - 1962

Luciano, the 'father of organised crime', was nicknamed 'Lucky', possibly because he survived having his throat slashed in 1929.



SID VICIOUS

1978

The Sex Pistols bassist was charged with the murder of his girlfriend, Nancy Spungen, but died of a drug overdose before the case went to trial.



CHARLES SOBHAJ

1963-1976

Convicted of killing and robbing at least 12 tourists along the 'hippie trail' in South East Asia, Sobhaj was released in December 2022 after 19 years inside.



SOMERTON MAN

1948

The identity of a dead man bearing a coded message who washed up on an Adelaide beach in 1948 remained a mystery until 2022, when scientists claimed they had identified him as Carl 'Charles' Webb.

THE VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE

2007

Student Seung-Hui Cho committed the deadliest school shooting in US history when he murdered 32 people at Virginia Tech.

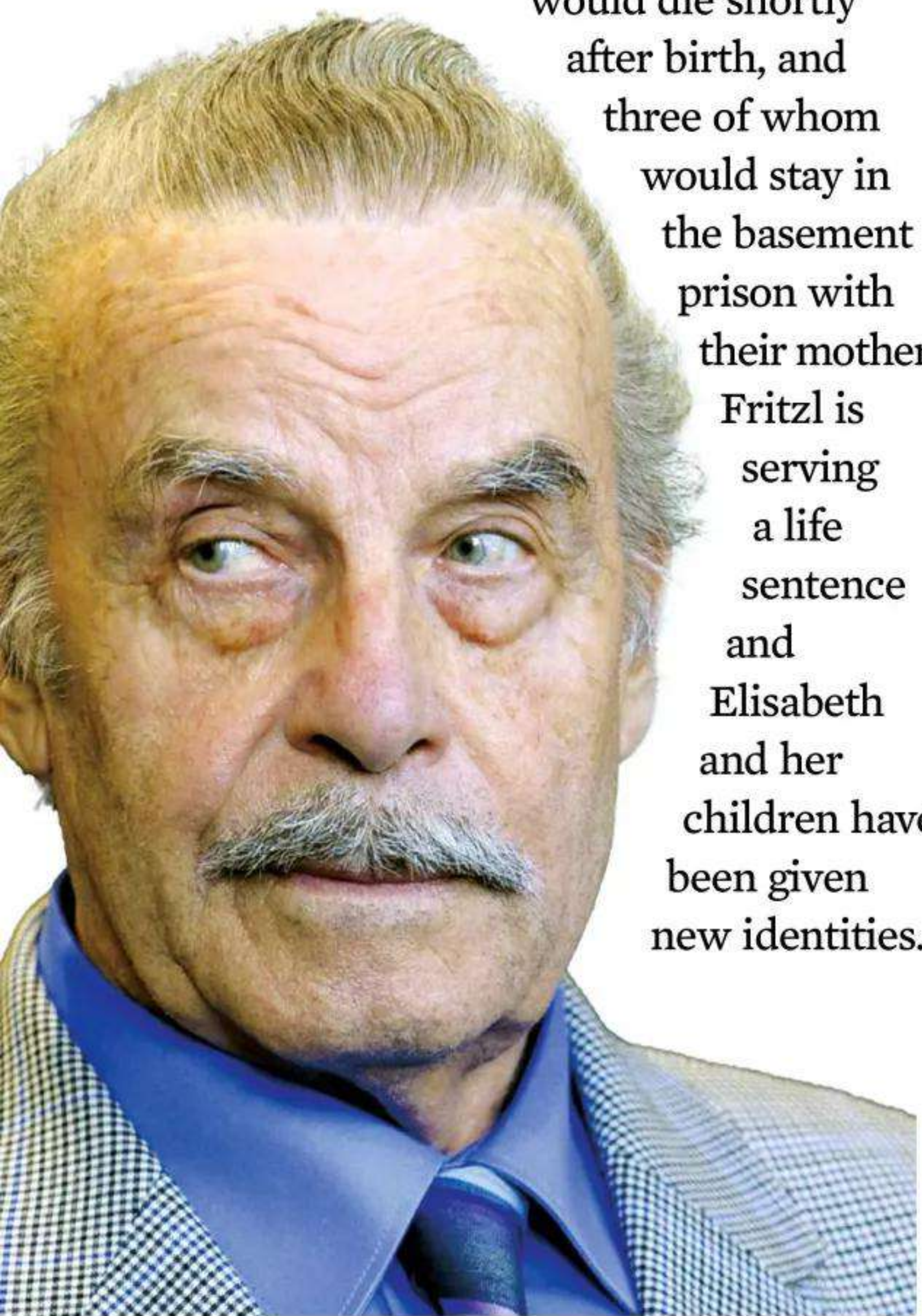


JOSEF FRITZL

1984 - 2008

On 28 August 1984 Josef Fritzl asked his 18-year-old daughter Elisabeth to help him carry a door into the basement of their house. Elisabeth would remain locked in the basement for 24 years, during which time she would have seven children by her father, one of whom

would die shortly after birth, and three of whom would stay in the basement prison with their mother. Fritzl is serving a life sentence and Elisabeth and her children have been given new identities.



FRED AND ROSE WEST

1971 - 1987

Between them, Fred and Rose West are known to have killed at least 12 young women and girls, including their own daughter and Fred's stepdaughter, as well as committing countless rapes and sexual assaults. Nine of these victims were buried in the Wests' garden and under the house. Fred West killed himself while awaiting trial in 1995; Rose West is serving ten life terms (with a whole life order) at West Yorkshire's New Hall prison.

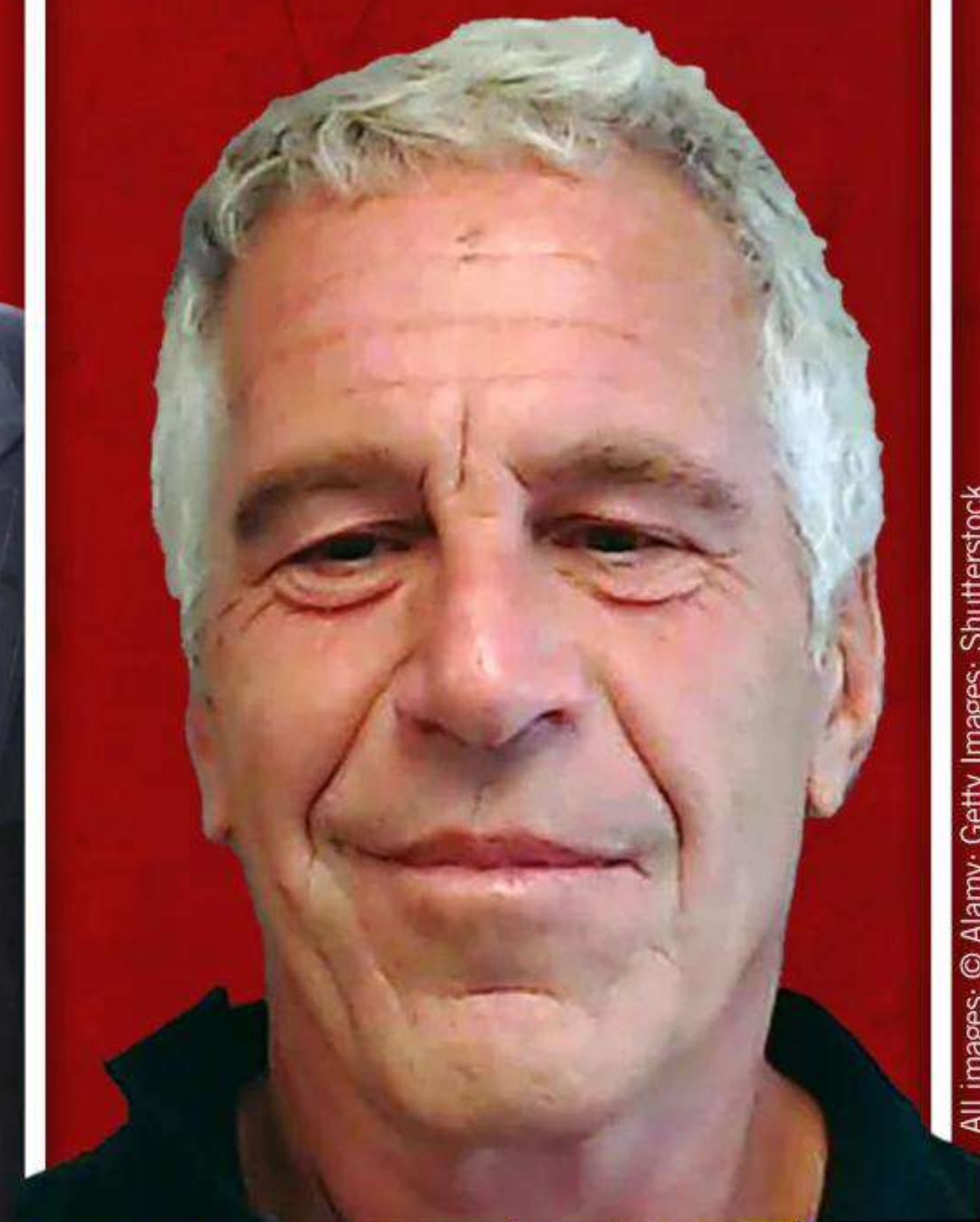
JEFFREY EPSTEIN

1985 - 2019

Jeffrey Epstein is one of a number of criminals on this list that embody the sickening truth that if someone is rich and well connected, then they can get away with routinely abusing vulnerable people for a very long time indeed.

The full extent of Epstein's crimes will never be known. Accusations of physical and sexual abuse date back as far as 1985, but by the early 00s Epstein was making a way of life out of manipulating and sexually abusing young women and girls as young as 13.

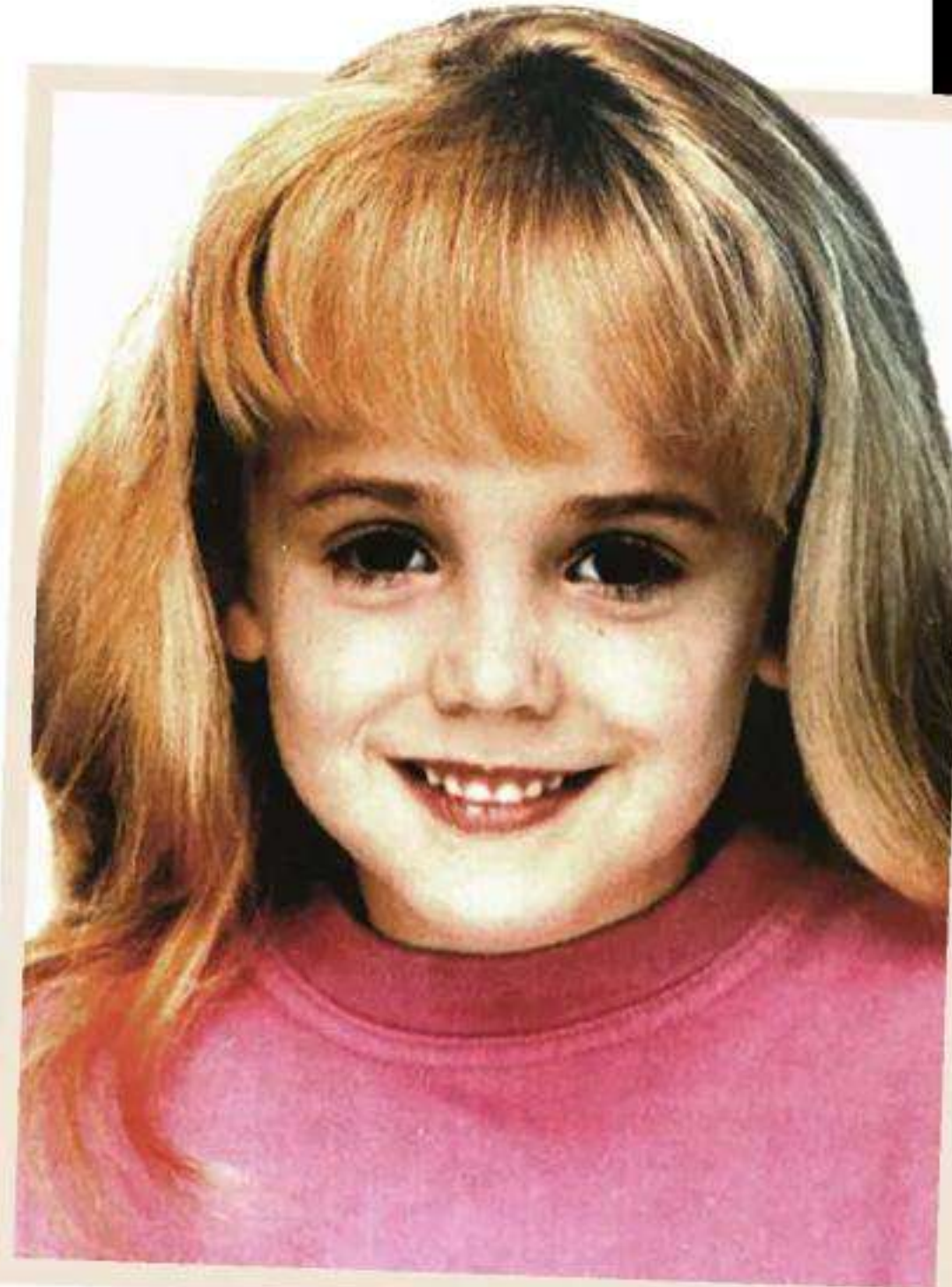
The best known among his dozens of victims is Virginia Giuffre, who claims that Epstein sex-trafficked her to Prince Andrew when she was just 17 years old. Those accusations resulted in an out-of-court settlement. Epstein, meanwhile, was arrested in 2019, and opted to take his own life rather than face trial on numerous counts of sex trafficking.



THE MURDER OF JONBENÉT RAMSEY

1996

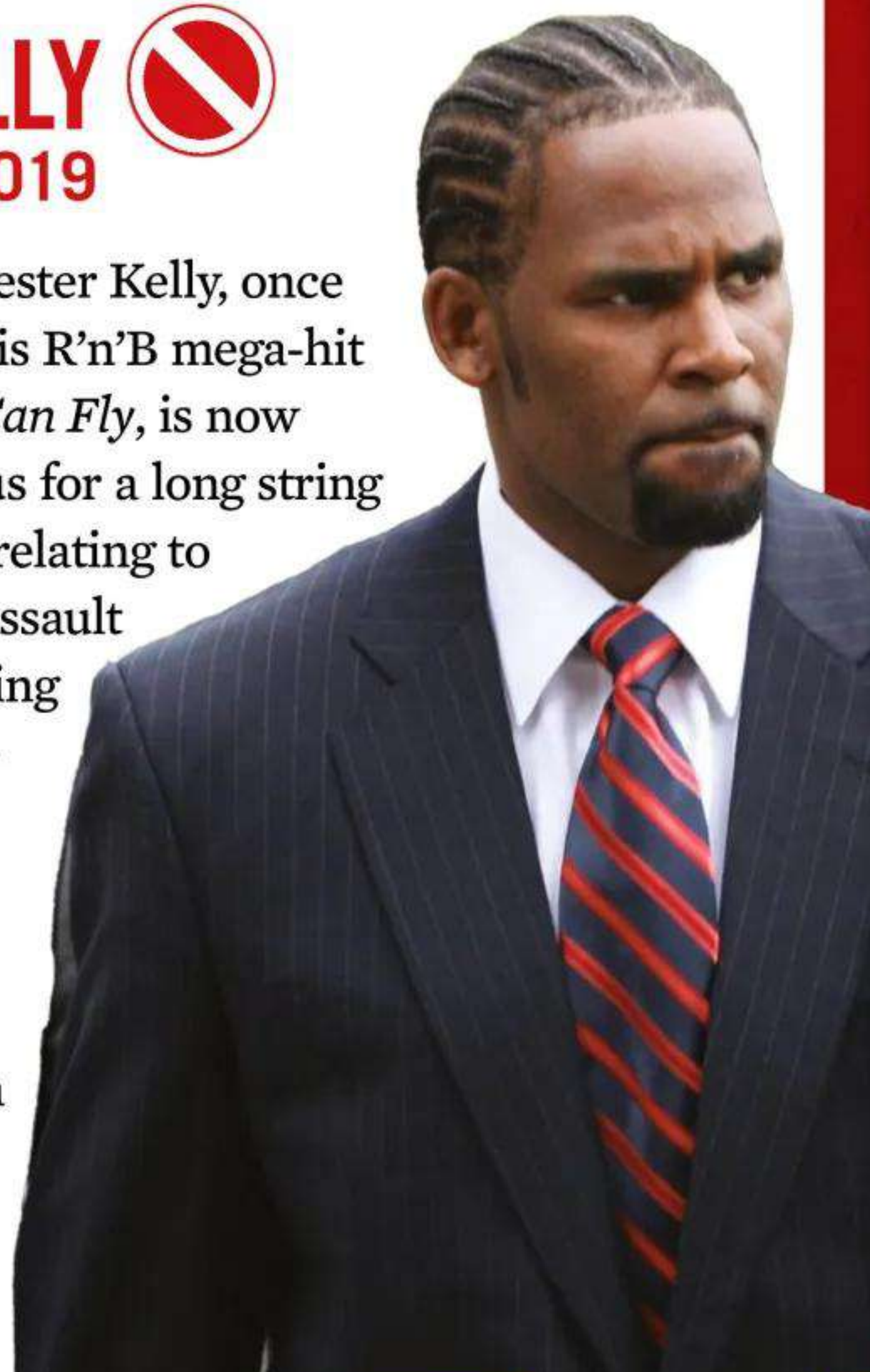
Six-year-old 'beauty queen' JonBenét Ramsey was found strangled and bludgeoned to death in the basement of her parents' house, her body lying next to an unusually long ransom note. Investigators have never been able to agree on what most likely happened, as some evidence points to a home invasion, while other evidence points to a fake home invasion staged by JonBenét's parents. As things stand, the District Attorney has exonerated the Ramseys, while police investigators still consider them suspects.



R. KELLY

1992 - 2019

Robert Sylvester Kelly, once famed for his R'n'B mega-hit *I Believe I Can Fly*, is now more famous for a long string of offences relating to the sexual assault and trafficking of underage girls. Kelly is currently serving 30 years in prison, with prosecutors pushing for more.



KEITH RANIERE

1984 - 2018

The leader of the NXIVM cult, which was involved in the trafficking and sexual abuse of dozens of women and girls.



SHIRLEY TURNER

2001 - 2003

Turner's murders of her ex-boyfriend and baby son were the subject of a powerful 2008 documentary called *Dear Zachary*.



WILLIAM UNEK

1954 - 1957

In 1954, Unek killed 21 people in 90 minutes using an axe, then killed 36 more in a 12-hour rampage in 1957.



NASRA YUSSEF MOHAMMAD AL-ENEZI

2009

Nasra objected to her husband taking a second wife, so she set fire to a marquee at the wedding in Kuwait, killing 57.



BLAKE LEIBEL

2016

Scalped his fiancée, Iana Kasian, then ran her head under a tap so she slowly bled to death.



ISRAEL KEYES

2001 - 2012

Believed to have killed at least 11 victims in meticulously planned attacks in Alaska, New York, Vermont and Washington.



JOHN CHRISTIE

1943 - 1953

Killed at least eight people and hid their remains in and around his home at 10 Rillington Place, London.



DAVID FULLER

1987 - 2020

Killed two women, and had sex with more than 100 female corpses while working as a hospital electrician.



THE MURDER OF SOPHIE TOSCAN DU PLANTIER

1996

Although Ian Bailey was convicted of killing Sophie in absentia by a French court, her murder remains an unsolved case as far as the Irish authorities are concerned.

NANCY CRAMPTON-BROPHY

2018

The author wrote an online essay titled *How To Murder Your Husband*, and then murdered her husband.



JACK UNTERWEGER

1974 - 1992

During a 15-year stretch for one murder, he convinced the media and authorities that he was a reformed character, but is thought to have killed a dozen more people following his release.

KRYSTIAN BALA

2000

Bala published a novel, *Amok*, in 2003 that helped police charge him with the 2000 murder of Dariusz Janiszewski.



In 2019, police announced that they had obtained a partial DNA profile from the length of blue nylon rope wrapped around the remains, and were optimistic that this could help to identify the killer.

Police have described the M5 slip road as "quite an odd place to dump a body" and believe the body was left "in haste".

Melanie's family confirmed that a ring found close to the remains was hers before a post-mortem ascertained that the body was that of Melanie.

On 5 October, 2009, 13 years after Melanie's disappearance, a motorway worker found a plastic bin bag containing a human skull, pelvis and thigh bone next to the M5 in Gloucestershire.

Keys to a Ford car or van were found nearby, but these have so far not proven to be a meaningful lead.

THE MURDER OF MELANIE HALL

1996

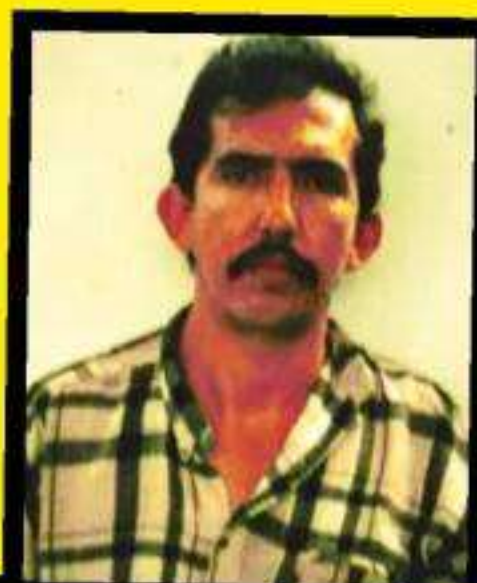
Twenty-five-year-old hospital clerical worker Melanie Hall was last seen alive at about 1am on 9 June 1996 at Cadillacs nightclub in Bath. Melanie had reportedly been arguing with her boyfriend, Philip Karlbaum, who'd already left the club. Another man seen with Melanie that night has not been identified, and is considered

a prime suspect in her murder. Since that night, no trace of Melanie was found until October 2009, when her remains were discovered in the undergrowth next to a motorway slip road. Clues left with the remains did not provide immediate breakthroughs, but as DNA technology continues to advance, police are confident that the net is closing on Melanie's killer.

LUIS GARAVITO

1992 - 1999

'The Beast' is probably the most prolific serial killer of all time, with 193 confirmed victims, and possibly many more, most of whom were children.

**JOAQUÍN 'EL CHAPO' GUZMÁN**

1977 - 2016

Until his arrest and imprisonment in 2016, El Chapo was the boss of the Sinaloa Cartel, and the most powerful drug lord Mexico has ever seen.

**NATHAN GALE**

2004

Gale stormed on stage during a Damageplan concert, shooting and killing four people, including legendary Pantera guitarist 'Dimebag' Darrell Abbott.

**DB COOPER**

1971

A man calling himself Dan Cooper hijacked a Boeing 727, claimed a ransom of \$200,000, then parachuted out of the plane mid-flight, never to be seen again.

**THE DC SNIPER ATTACKS**

2002

Over a three-week period, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo used sniper rifles to kill 10 people in and around Washington DC. They'd murdered seven people in the months before, too.

HEAVEN'S GATE

1997

A total of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult committed suicide at a house in California, believing they would then ascend to heaven via a UFO.

**IAN WATKINS**

2008 - 2012

The Lostprophets singer wasn't content with groupies and sank to sickening depths by conspiring to rape a baby, as well as a string of other sex offences involving children and animals.

**HENRY HILL**

1955 - 1980

Henry Hill wasn't actually all that notorious during his career in crime, but when his biography, *Wiseguy: Life In A Mafia Family*, was turned into one of the greatest gangster movies ever, *Goodfellas*, his name became synonymous with mobster life.

**THE KRAY TWINS**

1954 - 1968

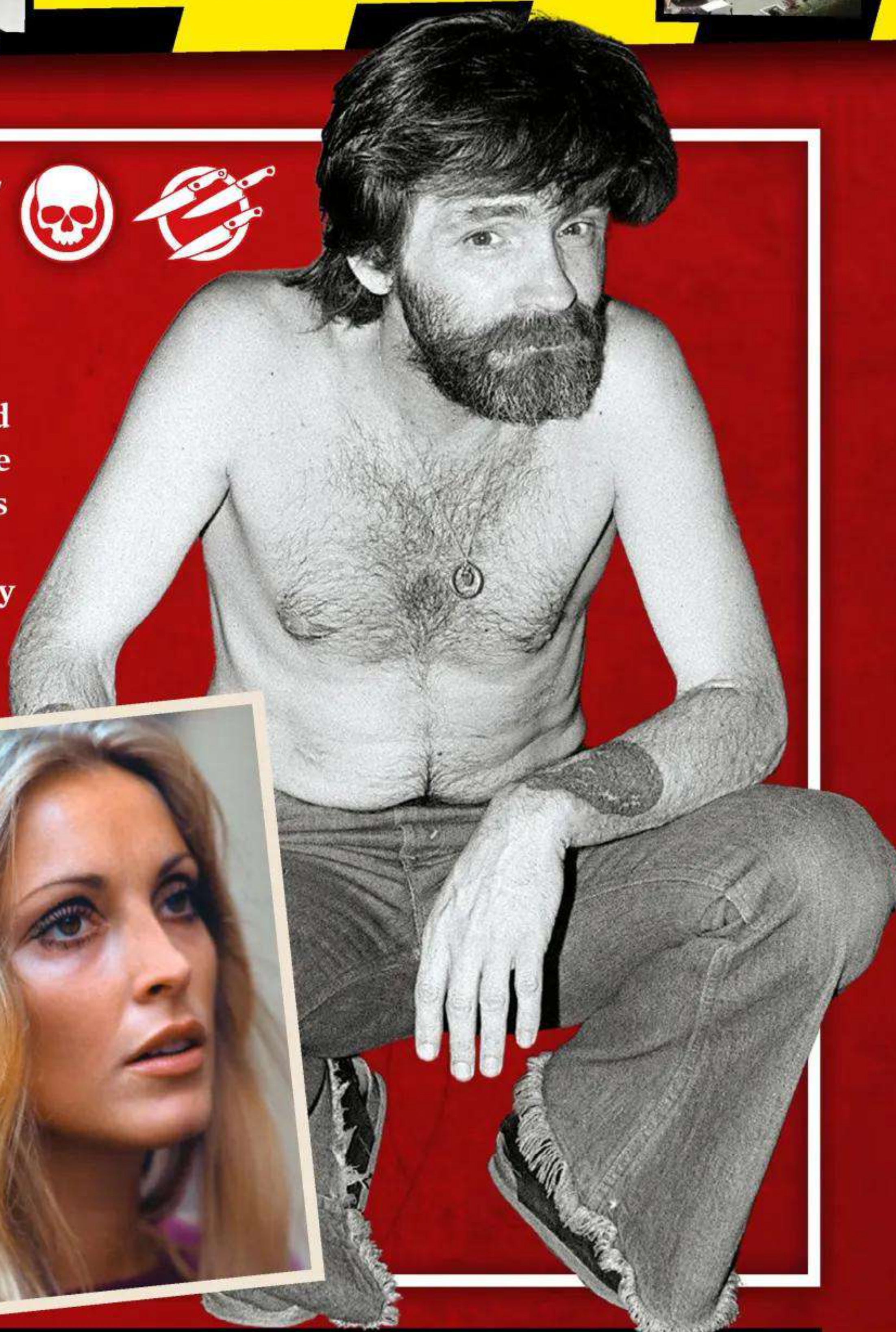
During the 50s and 60s, Ronnie and Reggie Kray ran the Firm, east London's biggest and most dangerous criminal gang. Their charisma may have earned them celebrity status, but ultimately the Krays were violent, murderous thugs.

**THE MANSON FAMILY**

1967 - 1969

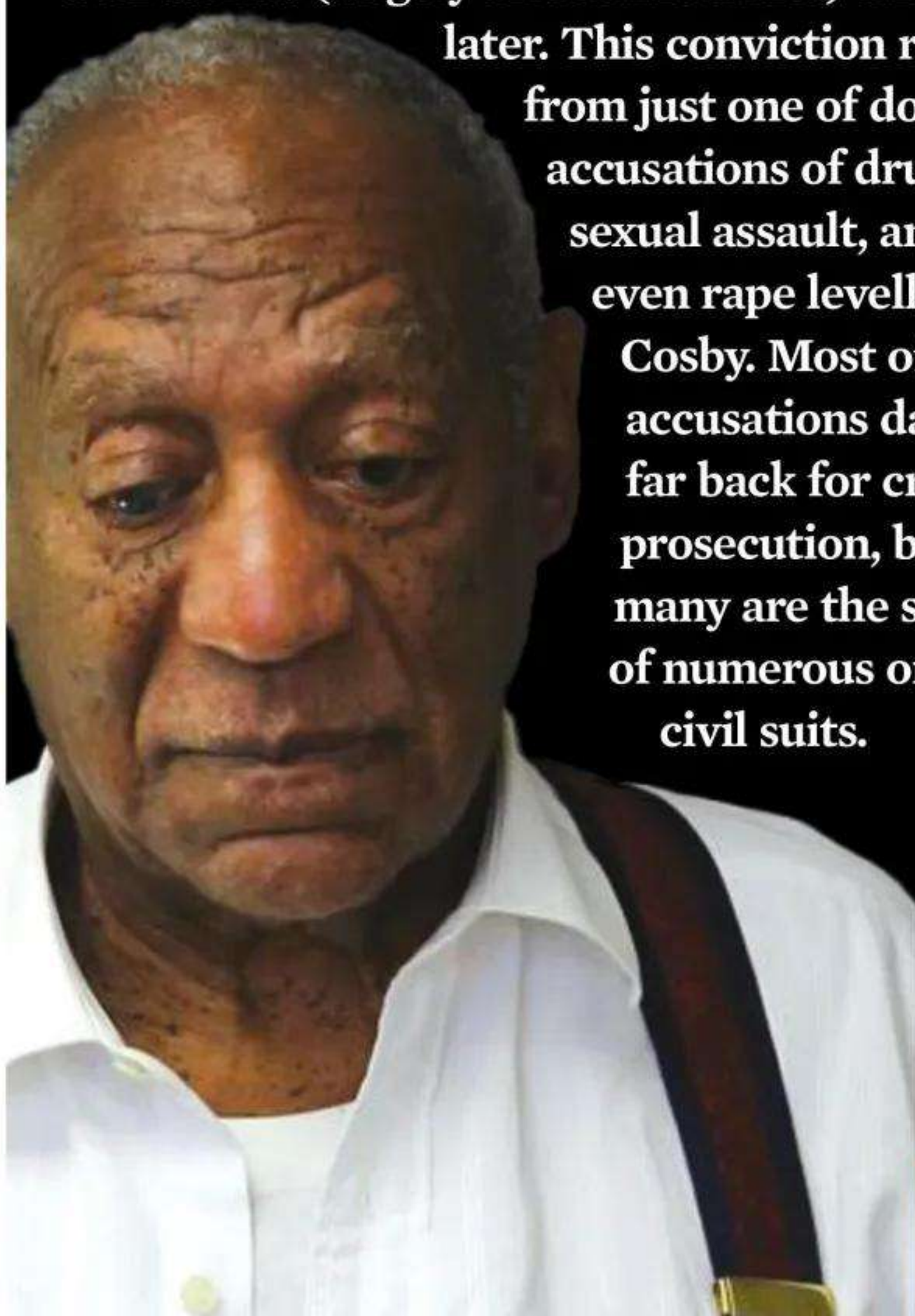
Usually if someone is convicted of seven counts of first-degree murder when they haven't so much as laid a finger on anyone, this would be seen as a miscarriage of justice. Not in Charles Manson's case. The infamous cult leader never killed anyone, and may never even have ordered anyone's murder, but he was found guilty of all seven murders, such was the psychological grip he held over his 100-strong 'family'.

On the night of 8 August 1969, four members of Manson's family invaded the Hollywood home of film director Roman Polanski and his wife, actress Sharon Tate, brutally murdering Tate along with her unborn child and four others. Local business owners Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered two days later. Much has been said and written about Manson's obsession with prophecy and symbolism, but ultimately these murders were the very definition of senseless.

**BILL COSBY**

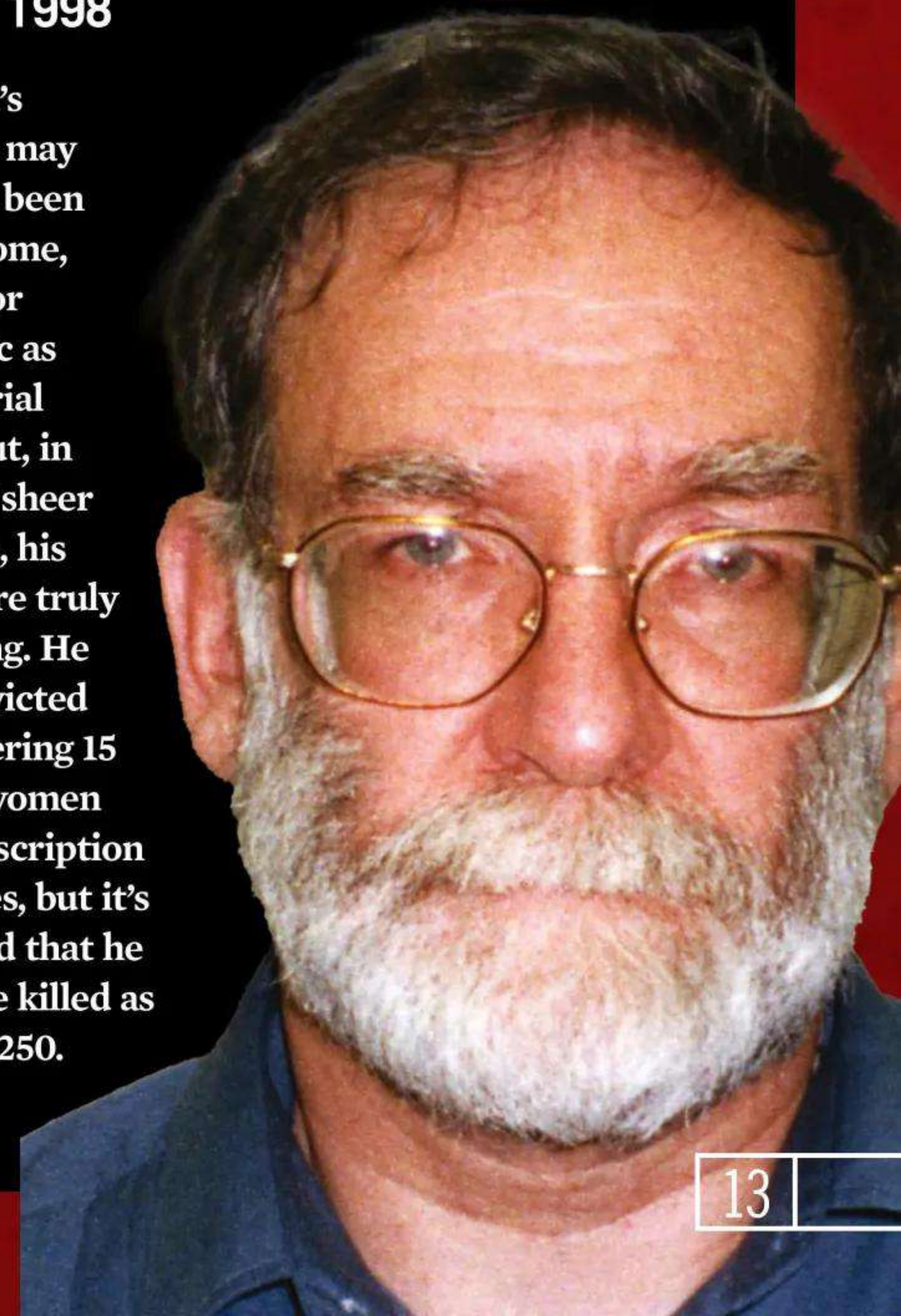
1965 - 2006

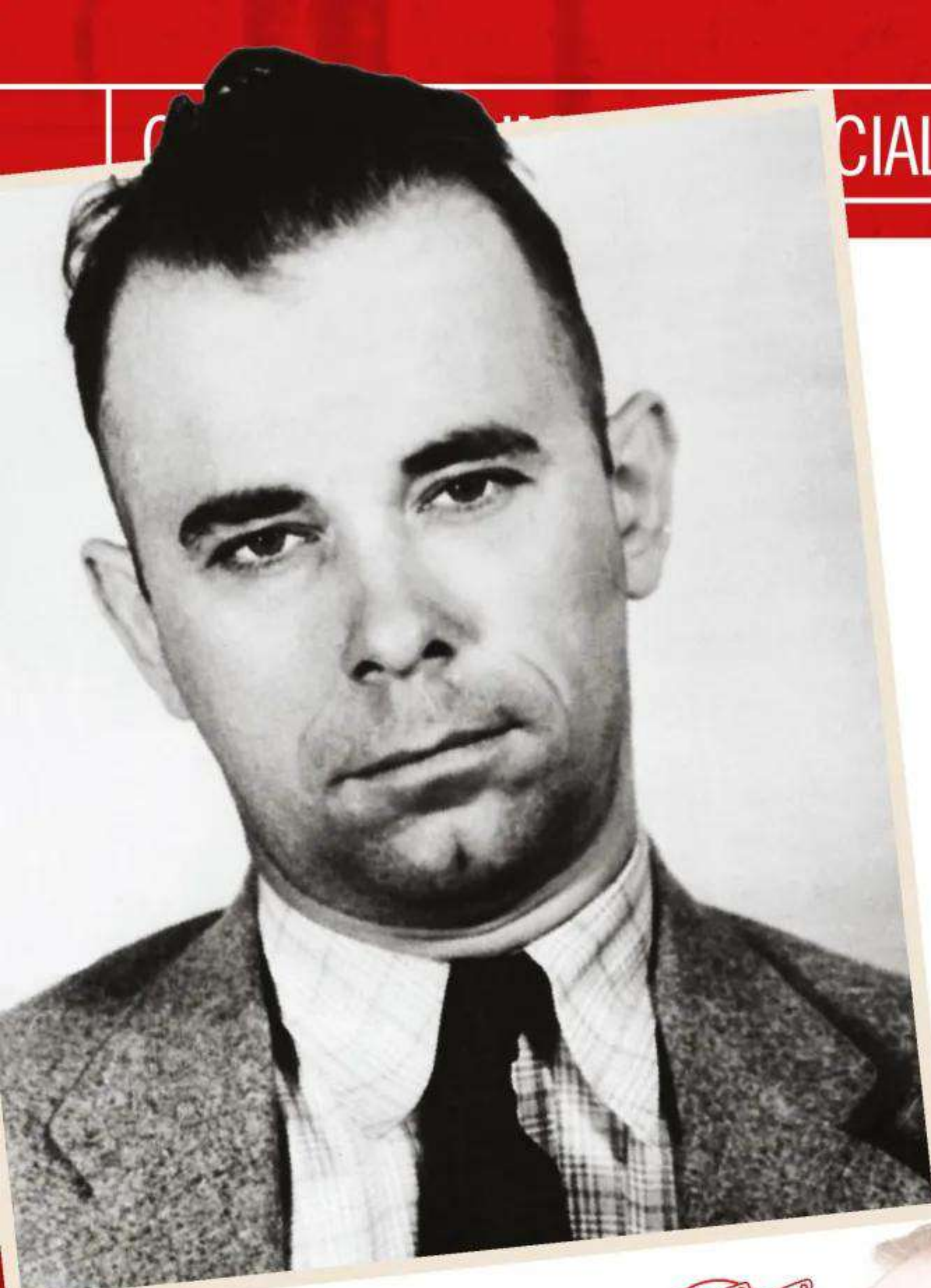
In 2018, Bill Cosby was found guilty on three counts of aggravated assault against Andrea Constand, only for the conviction to be overturned (largely on technicalities) three years later. This conviction resulted from just one of dozens of accusations of drugging, sexual assault, and even rape levelled at Cosby. Most of these accusations date too far back for criminal prosecution, but many are the subject of numerous ongoing civil suits.

**HAROLD SHIPMAN**

1975 - 1998

Shipman's methods may not have been as gruesome, sadistic or ritualistic as other serial killers but, in terms of sheer numbers, his crimes are truly horrifying. He was convicted of murdering 15 elderly women with prescription overdoses, but it's estimated that he may have killed as many as 250.





JOHN DILLINGER

1933 - 1934



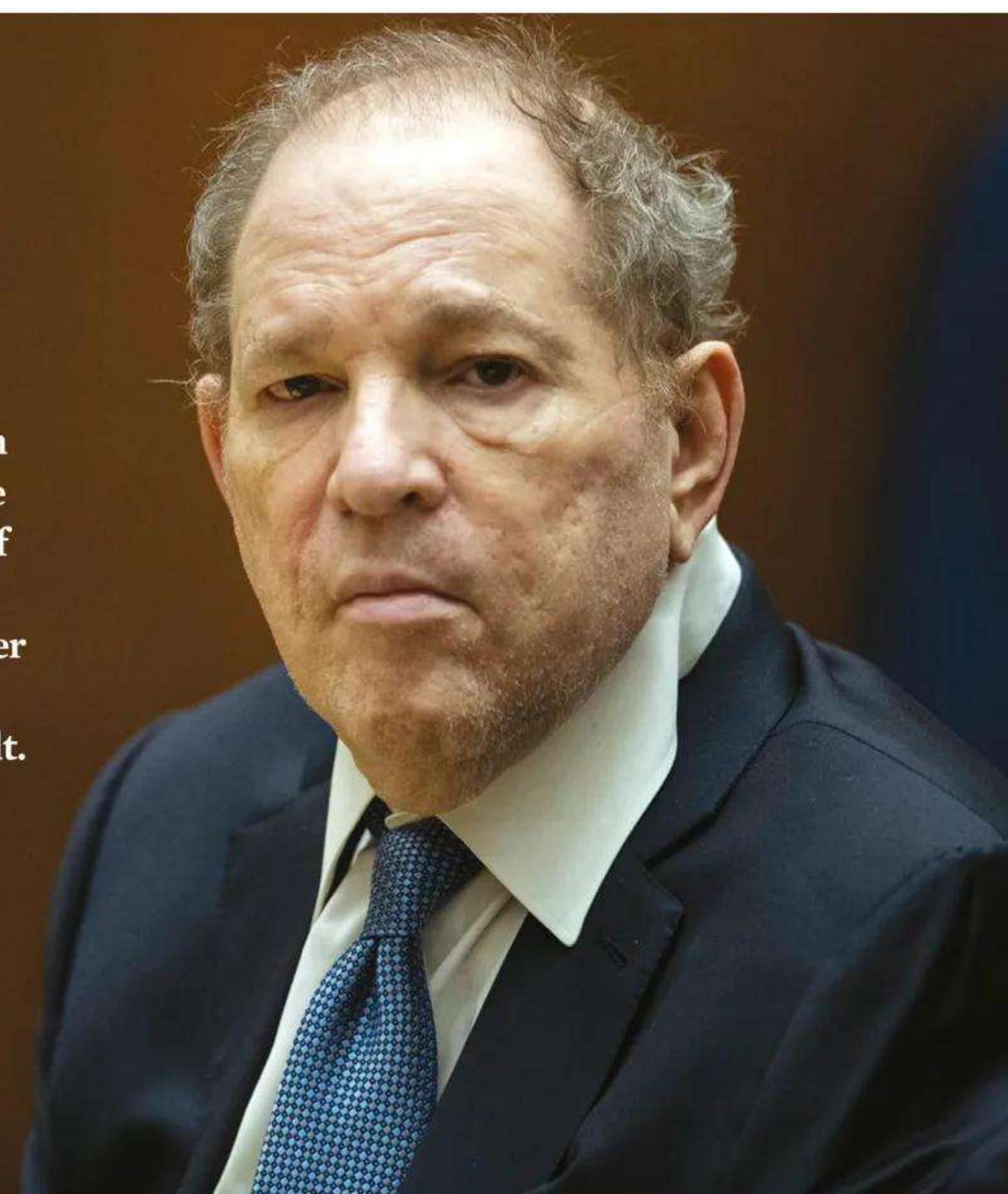
John Dillinger's gang robbed numerous banks across the US Midwest, stealing over \$300,000 (the equivalent to around \$18 million today) and killing ten men, before Dillinger was shot and killed in an alley by FBI agents on 22 July 1934.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN

1980 - 2015



The concept of the 'casting couch' has been around for at least as long as there have been movies, but perpetrators of the practice are rarely convicted of anything. That all changed in 2020, when Miramax co-founder Harvey Weinstein was found guilty of rape and sexual assault. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison, and earlier this year he was sentenced to a further 16 years by a California court. More than 80 women have accused him of inappropriate and/or criminal behaviour.



ANDERS BREIVIK

2011



Anders Breivik detonated a bomb in Oslo, killing eight people. But this was just a distraction. While police were dealing with the explosion, Breivik rushed to Utøya island for a shooting spree that would leave 69 more dead, dozens of them teenagers.



THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MADELEINE McCANN

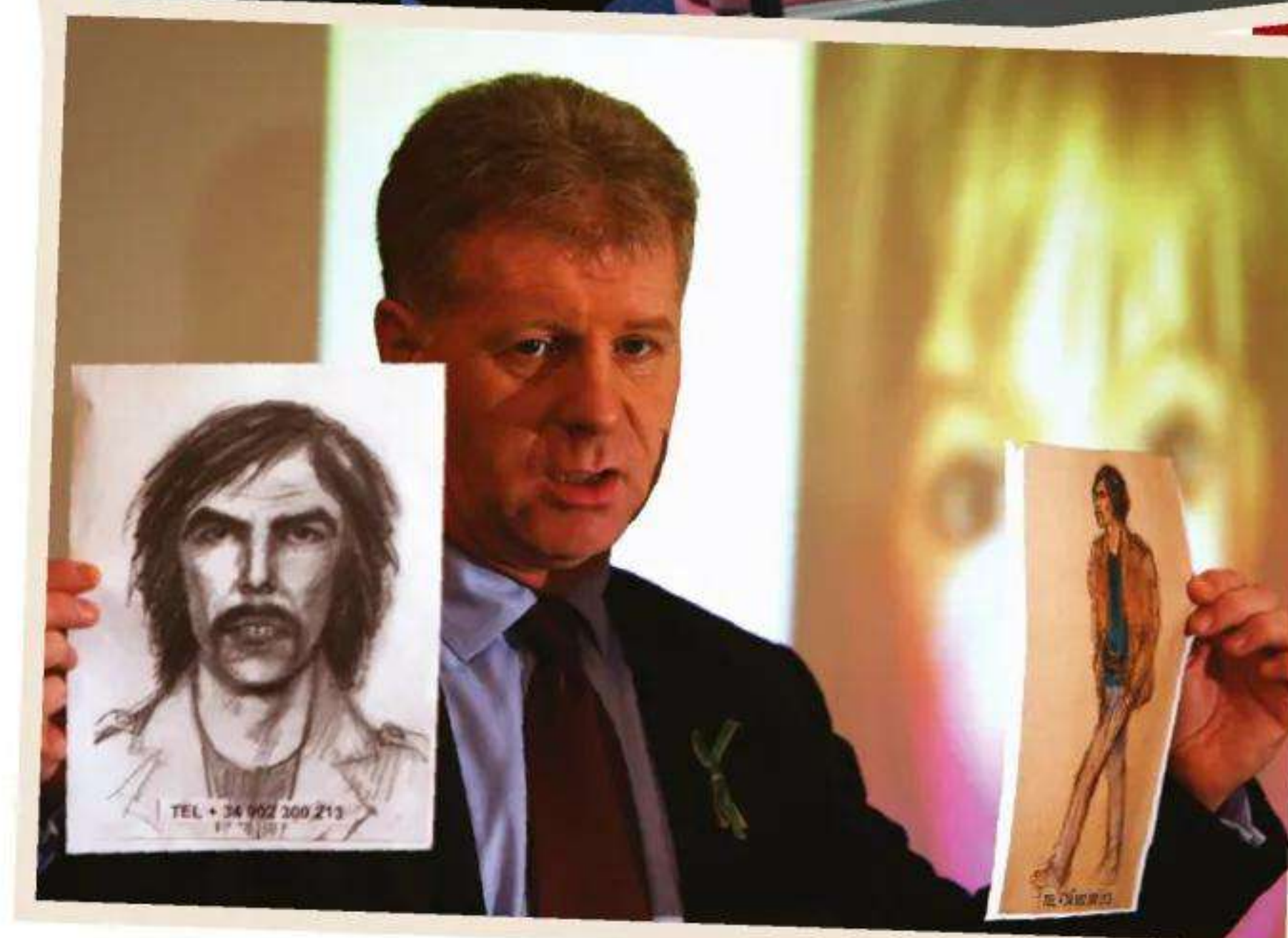
2007



Thousands of children are reported missing every day – 2,300 in the United States alone – but most get no media reporting at all, never mind the meticulous, obsessive, long-running coverage that's been dedicated to Madeleine McCann since she disappeared on 3 May 2007.

What most whet the press and public's appetite for the Madeleine McCann case was that her own parents were initially suspects, with Portuguese investigators somehow concluding that they'd covered up a fatal accident. While they were ultimately cleared of all wrong-doing, the fact that the McCanns left their children alone while they went out for dinner did make them an easy target for those looking to cast judgements.

Interest in the case has also been fuelled by the hope that Madeleine McCann might still one day be found alive, but while investigations are ongoing to this day, she's widely presumed to have been killed soon after she was abducted.



PHIL SPECTOR

2003



The legendary music producer shot and killed B-movie actress Lana Clarkson at his California mansion. Spector had a history of pulling guns on women who spurned his affections, and this was the first and last time he pulled the trigger.

CHRIS WATTS

2018

Murdered his pregnant wife and two young daughters, thinking he could then begin a new life with a woman he'd met at work.



THE CITY BONDS ROBBERY

1990

An international crime syndicate arranged for a courier carrying £291.9 million (about £660 million today) in bearer bonds to be 'mugged' on a London street.

PEDRO LÓPEZ

1969 - 2002

Estimates as to how many young women and girls López killed throughout South America range between 110 and 350.



JONATHAN KING

1969 - 1989

Music Mogul Jonathan King has been accused of sexually assaulting more than 30 underage boys, but has only been convicted in five cases.



GRISELDA BLANCO

1975 - 2012

Known as 'The Godmother' and 'The Black Widow', Griselda Blanco was the most powerful woman the illegal drug trade has ever seen.



LESLIE GRANTHAM

1966

Two decades before he rose to fame as 'Dirty Den' in *EastEnders*, Grantham was convicted of murder and served ten years after shooting a West German taxi driver during a robbery.

THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL MASSACRE

1999

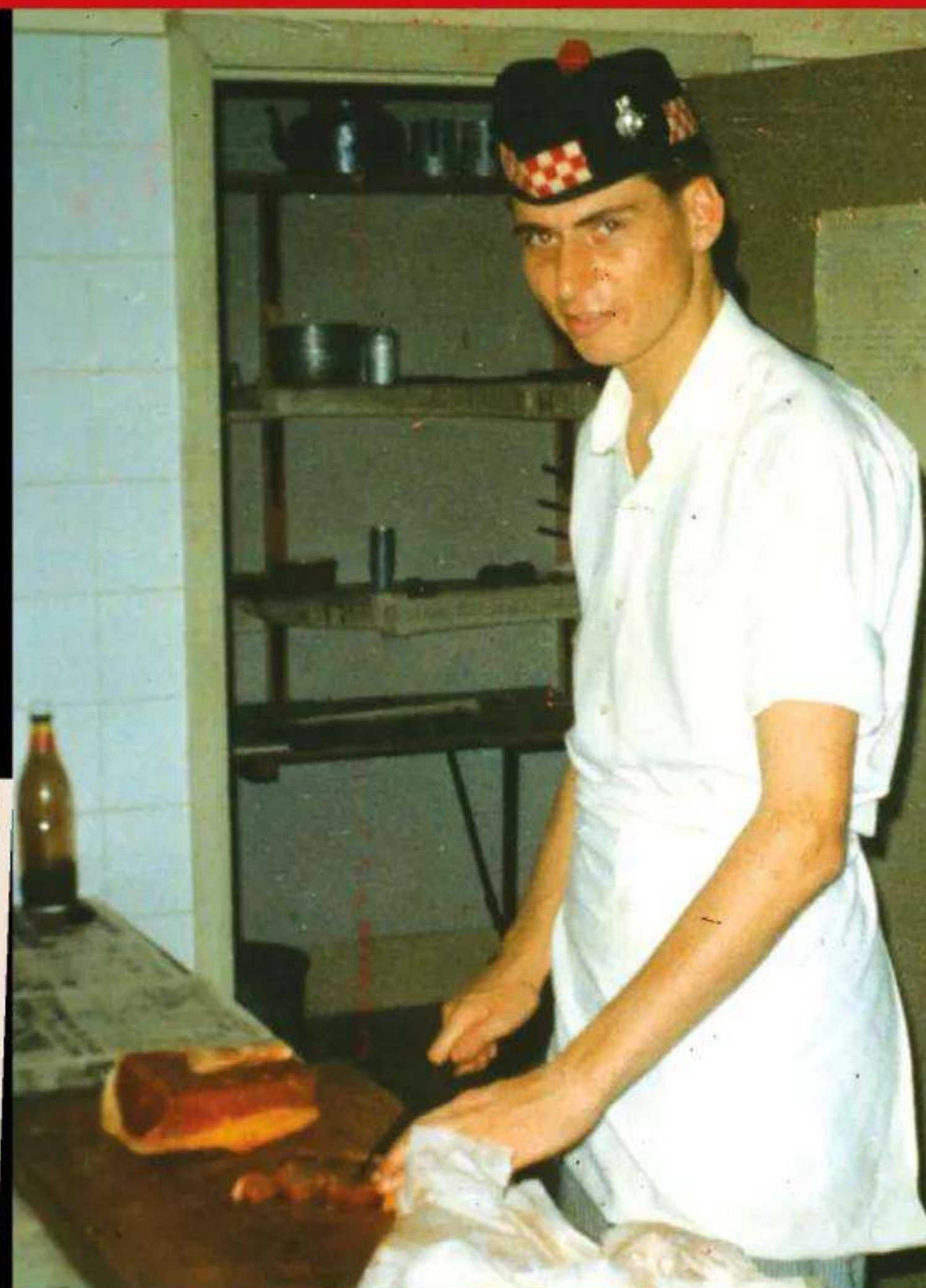
The Columbine shooting, in which Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold murdered 13 people and injured 24, was shocking enough in itself, but the 'Columbine effect' – copycat crimes – is perhaps even more horrifying. *The Washington Post* found that at least 554 children and school staff have been killed or injured in the 366 US school shootings since Columbine, and that the average age of a school shooter is just 16.



DENNIS NILSEN

1978 - 1983

The 'British Jeffrey Dahmer' murdered at least 12 young men and boys before ritually bathing and dressing their bodies. He was discovered and arrested after a Dyno-Rod employee found the drains of his home blocked with human flesh and bones.



JEFFREY DAHMER

1978 - 1991

Over a 13-year period, Jeffrey Dahmer claimed 17 victims, all of them young men, most of them black. His is far from the highest body count in serial killing history, but Dahmer nevertheless became one of the best-known murderers thanks to his unique methods and unusual motives.

While many serial killers are fuelled by anger, resentment, adrenaline and ego, Dahmer's primary motive was an extreme fear of abandonment. Drugging, killing, mutilating, lobotomising, photographing, keeping and eating the young men he lured back to his apartment was a way to prevent them from leaving him.

Despite strong suspicions and accusations among his local community, Dahmer evaded capture until 1991, when one of his intended victims escaped, leading to a police search of his apartment which turned up Polaroids of corpses, refrigerated body parts, and a barrel full of acid and human bones.



DEREK CHAUVIN

2020

No single murder in history has been watched by as many people as that of George Floyd. Between them, various videos of Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin have been viewed literally billions of times, sparking not just outrage, but sweeping political shifts across the world. Chauvin is now serving 22.5 years in prison for unintentionally killing Floyd by kneeling on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds.



THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TARA CALICO

1988

The New Mexico teen was officially declared dead 10 years after her disappearance, although no body has ever been found, only a mysterious Polaroid that may or may not be of her.



THE CUMBRIA SHOOTINGS

2010

Taxi driver Derrick Bird killed 12 people in a half-day shooting spree, initially targeting specific victims, then later shooting at random targets.



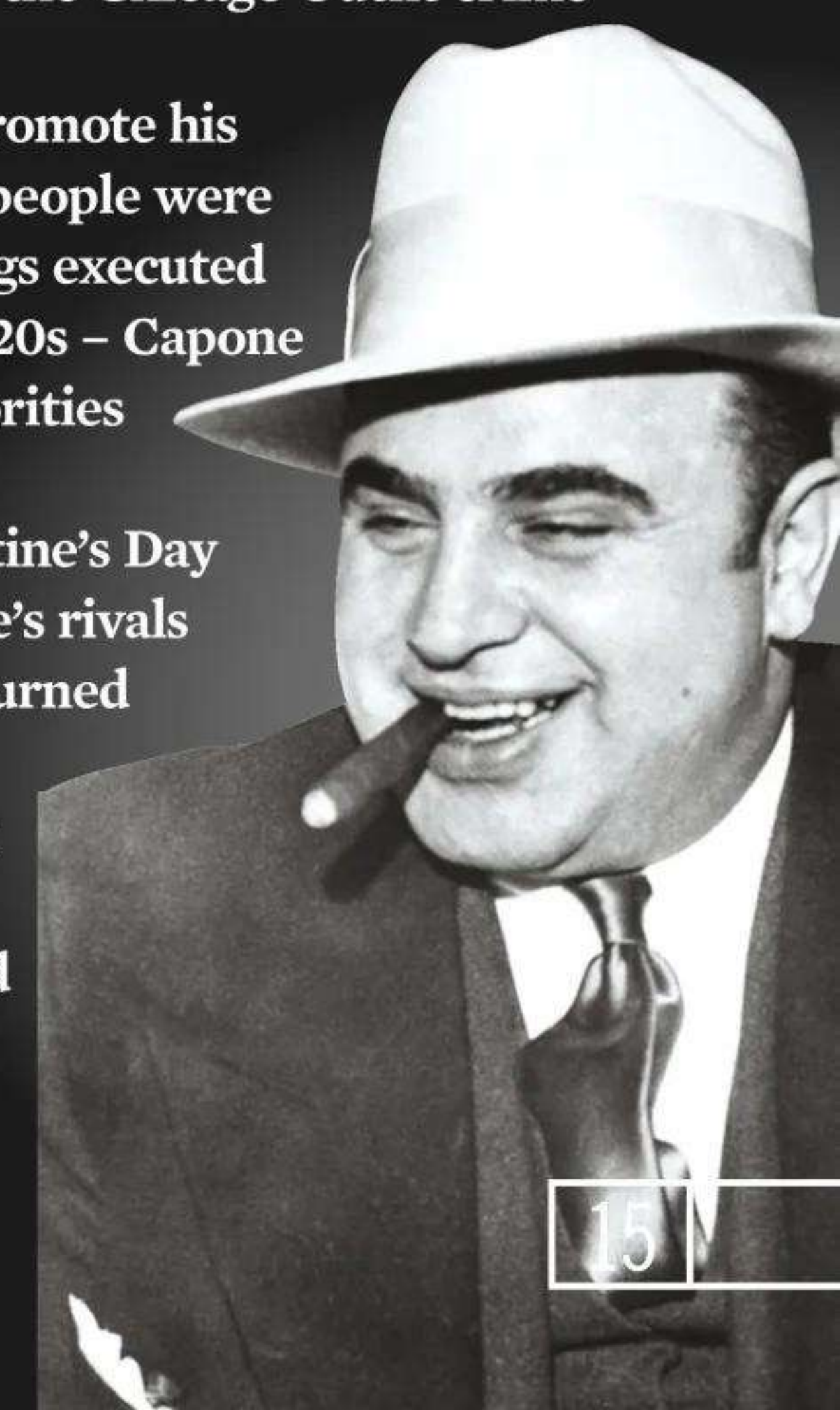
AL CAPONE

1919 - 1932

No name is more synonymous with organised crime than that of Al Capone. He was a New York native, but rose to prominence in Chicago as leader of the Chicago Outfit crime family during the Prohibition era.

Despite using extreme force to promote his bootlegging business – around 100 people were killed in assassinations and bombings executed by the Chicago Outfit during the 1920s – Capone remained untouchable by the authorities and popular among the public.

However, in 1929 the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, in which seven of Capone's rivals were murdered in broad daylight, turned the tide against Capone, and the authorities began a crackdown that would culminate in his conviction for tax evasion in 1932, which ended his criminal career for good.



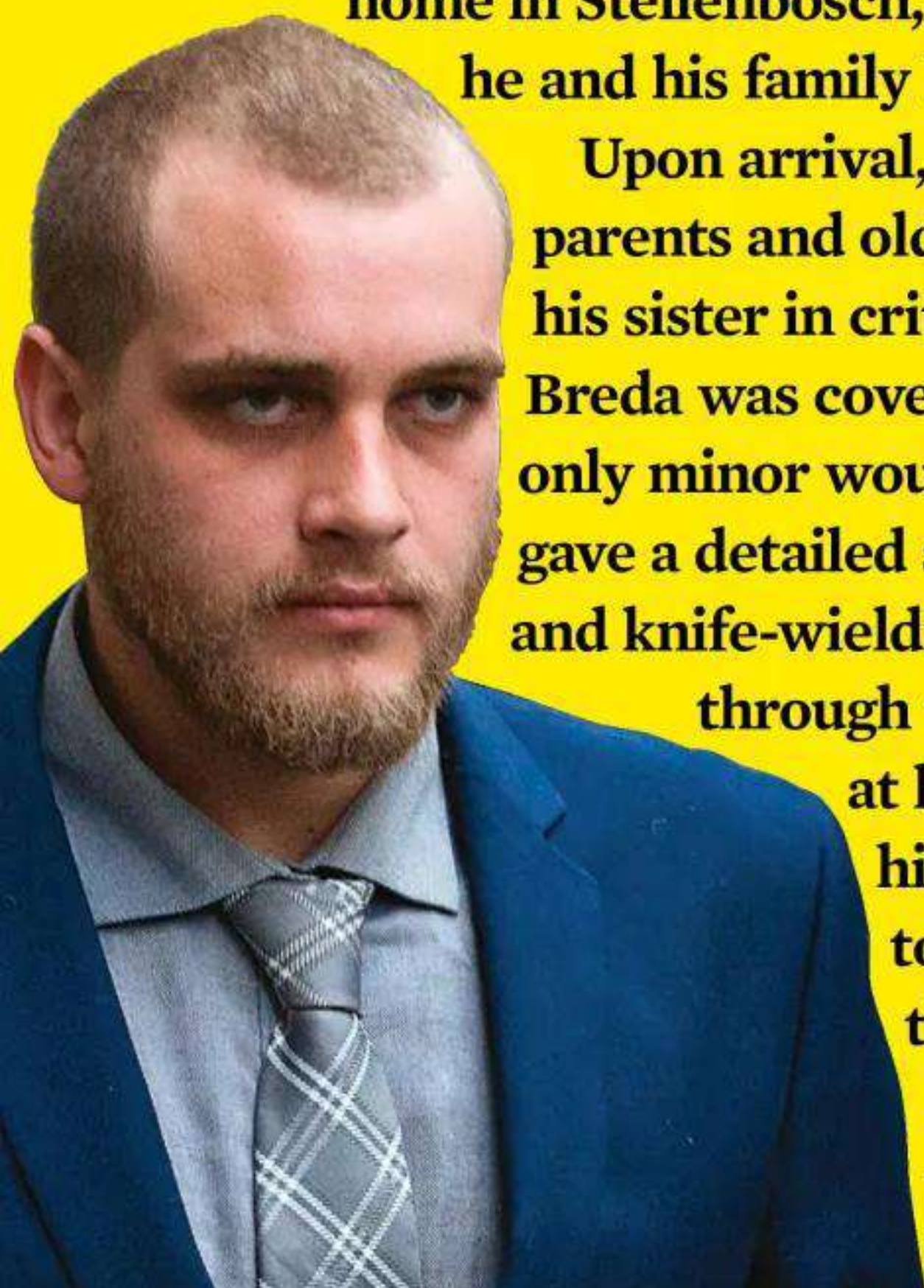
HENRI VAN BREDA

2015

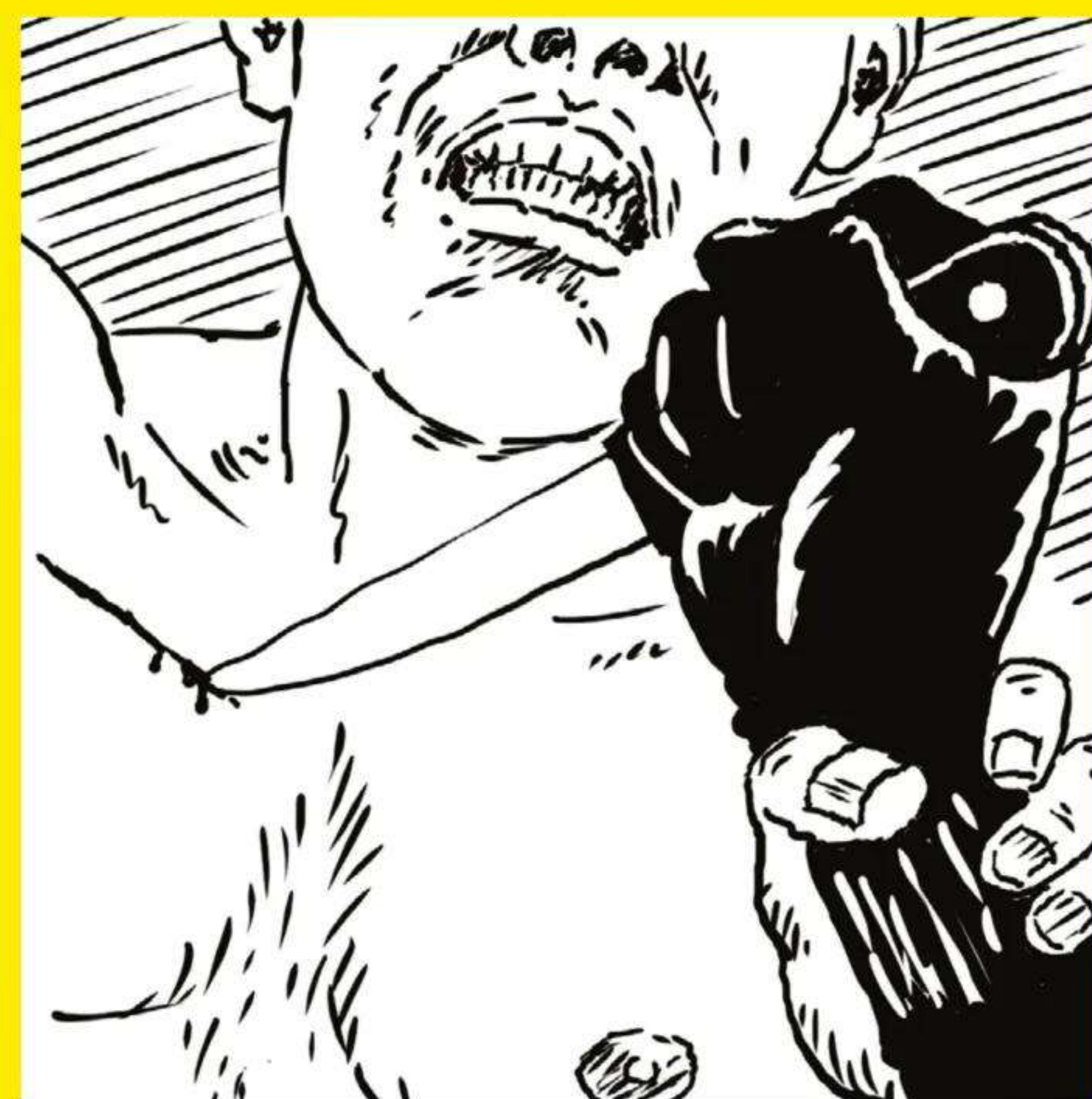


On 27 January 2015, 20-year-old Henri van Breda called emergency services to his family's home in Stellenbosch, South Africa, claiming he and his family had been attacked.

Upon arrival, police found van Breda's parents and older brother dead, and his sister in critical condition. Van Breda was covered in blood, but with only minor wounds to his own body. He gave a detailed account of how an axe- and knife-wielding man had rampaged through the house, but the jury at his 2018 trial dismissed his story, sentencing him to three life terms for the three murders, and an additional 15 years for the attempted murder.



During his trial, van Breda re-enacted the fight between himself and the home invader he claims attacked his family. The attacker, he said, was armed with an axe and a knife, and initially raised the axe.



Van Breda claims he grabbed the man by the wrist and managed to prise the axe out of his hand before pushing him away.

OJ SIMPSON



1994

Technically, the double-murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman is an unsolved case, given that OJ Simpson was acquitted, and that no one else has been convicted. But since that acquittal, the police have pursued no other leads, and Simpson has been found responsible for both deaths by a civil jury.

So, while Simpson was acquitted of stabbing his ex-wife and her friend to death on her doorstep, everyone seems pretty satisfied that he did it anyway. One thing he definitely did do was lead police on one of the slowest, yet most-watched, police chases of all time.

The civil case left Simpson with a damages bill of £27 million, but no prison time. However, he did serve six years in jail for armed robbery and kidnapping after he and three other men burst into a Las Vegas hotel and stole sports memorabilia at gunpoint.

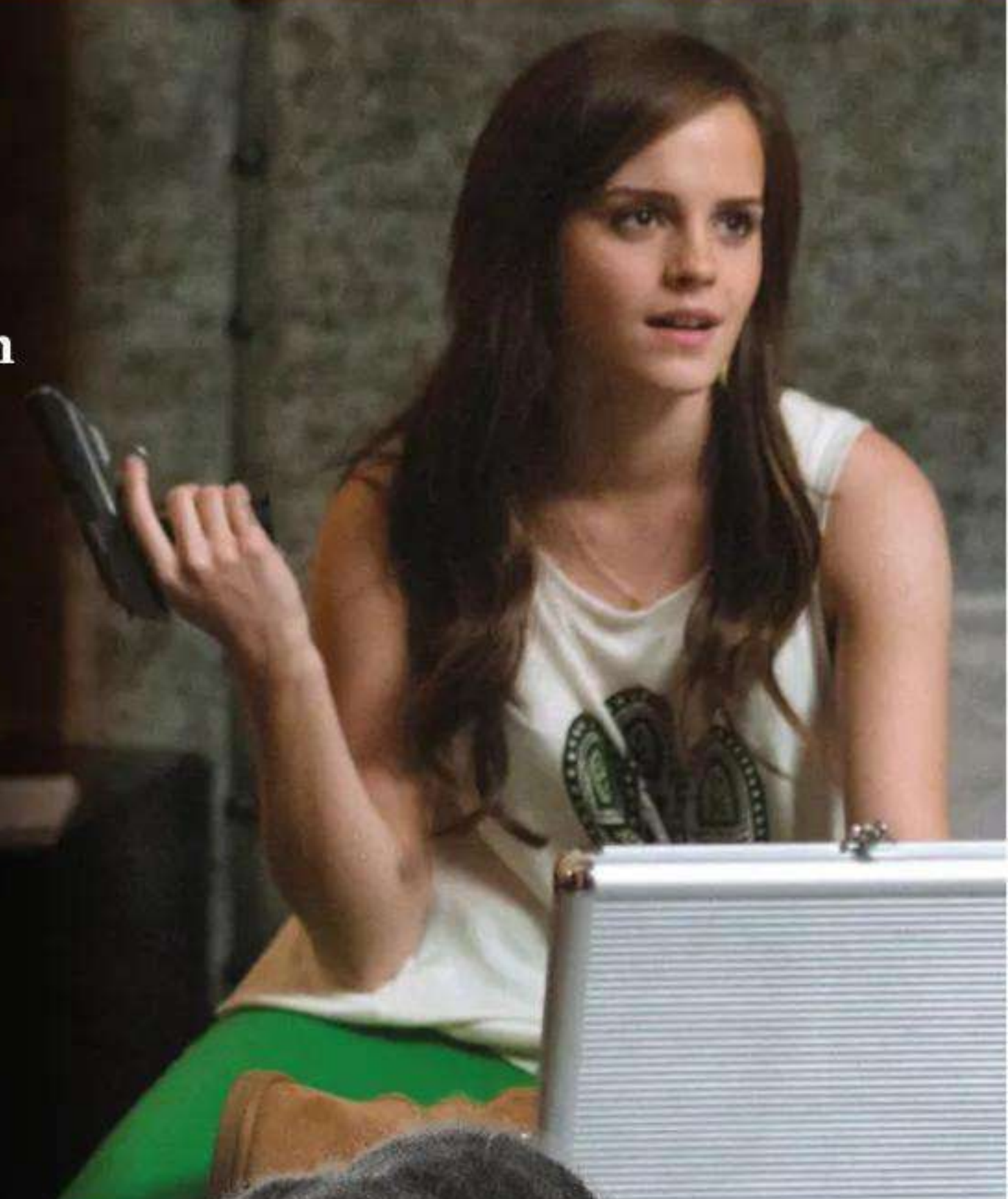


THE BLING RING



2008 - 2009

Many of us have a perhaps unhealthy obsession with the lives and the material possessions of the rich and famous. But in 2008, seven young Californians took this obsession a step further by embarking on a spree of burglaries that would take in more than 50 homes in the Hollywood Hills area. The gang targeted some of their favourite celebrities, including Paris Hilton, Rachel Bilson, Orlando Bloom, Megan Fox and Lindsay Lohan. A 2013 movie adaptation of the story starred Emma Watson.



TED BUNDY

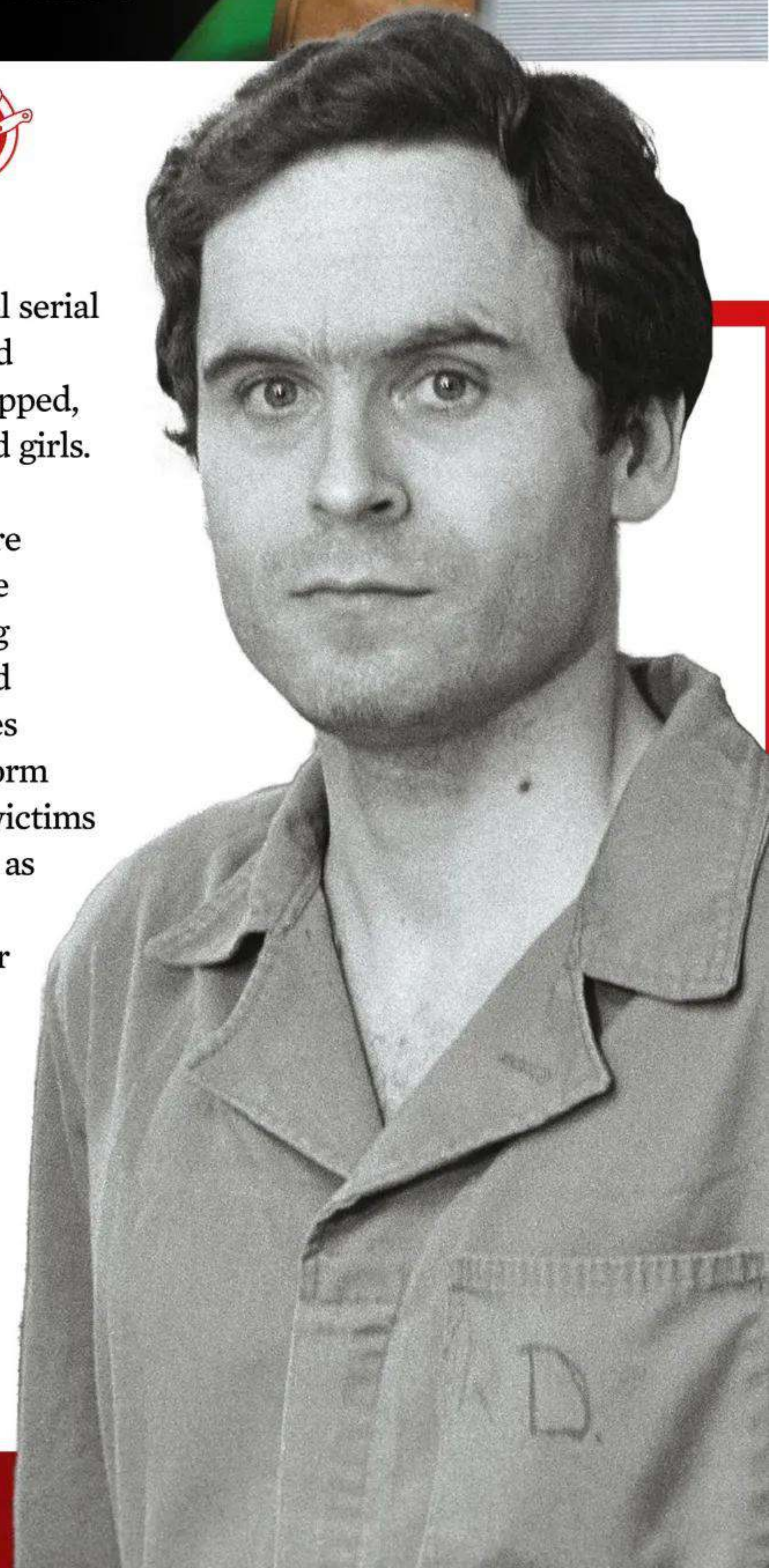


1974 - 1978

If there is such a thing as an archetypal serial killer, then it is best represented by Ted Bundy. In just four years, Bundy kidnapped, raped and killed at least 30 women and girls.

Bundy used his looks, charisma and reputed chameleon-like qualities to lure women away from public places before knocking them unconscious and taking them away to be sexually assaulted and killed. He frequently visited the corpses of some of his victims in order to perform further sex acts on them, while other victims were decapitated and their heads kept as trophies in Bundy's apartment.

In 1975, Bundy was handed a 15-year jail sentence for the kidnapping and assault of Carol DaRonch, but he escaped in 1977 and continued killing until he was arrested again in 1978. He was executed in 1989, having been convicted of three murders, but is known to have committed many more.



Next the two grabbed each other's wrists, each trying to strike the other with a weapon. The attacker managed to slash van Breda's body with the tip of his knife.



Van Breda then tried to hit the man in the head with the butt of the axe, but the attacker dodged and the axe struck his shoulder.



JOHN WAYNE GACY



1967 - 1978

Coulrophobia is defined as an extreme or irrational fear of clowns. John Wayne Gacy is arguably a perfectly rational reason to be extremely afraid of clowns. He performed as a clown as a hobby, while much of the rest of his spare time was dedicated to killing young men. He was executed in 1994 on 33 counts of murder, the most any individual had been convicted of in the US at the time.



PABLO ESCOBAR

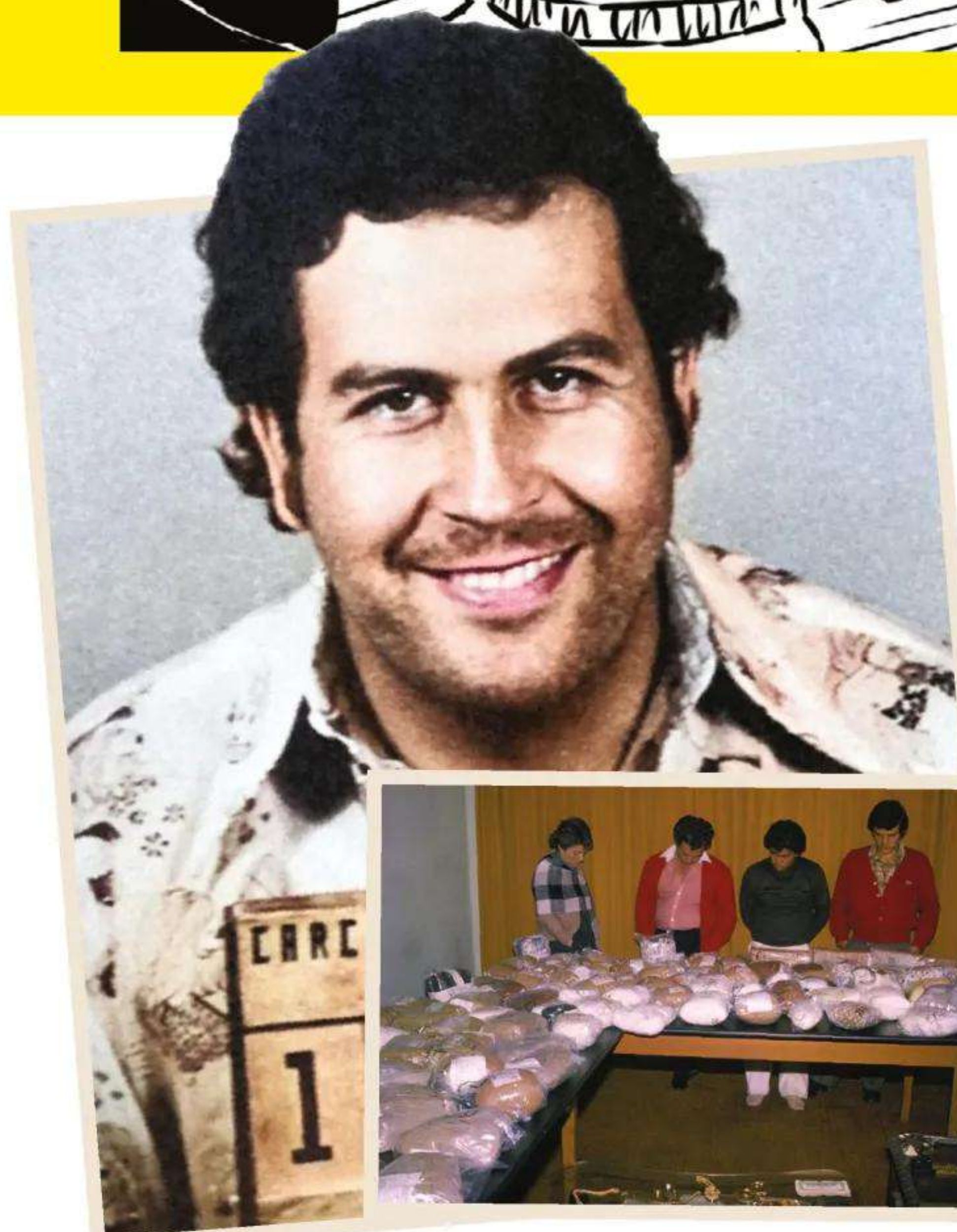


1976 - 1993

At the height of his drug-smuggling career, the 'King of Cocaine' had amassed an estimated £25 billion fortune, making him the single wealthiest criminal, and among the richest people, of all time. As the head of the Medellín Cartel, he established smuggling routes from South America to the United States, almost single-handedly triggering the 80s cocaine boom.

Escobar never hesitated to use violence in protecting his interests, and is known to have ordered countless murders and assassinations, including the bombing of Avianca Flight 203, which killed all 107 people on board. But he also donated large sums of money to charitable causes in his home town of Medellín, where many regarded him as a 'Robin Hood' figure.

Having escaped jail and been on the run for 16 months, Escobar was finally tracked down, chased across a rooftop and killed by Colombian police in 1993. His funeral was attended by more than 25,000 mourners.



ELIZABETH HOLMES



2003 - 2018

In the most high-profile fraud case of recent years, young tech entrepreneur Elizabeth Holmes took ambitious business adages like "confidence is everything" and "make the impossible possible" rather too literally when she raised £7.5 billion in funding for a device that not only did not exist, but that did something that was literally impossible. The Theranos founder got 11 years in prison for four counts of fraud.

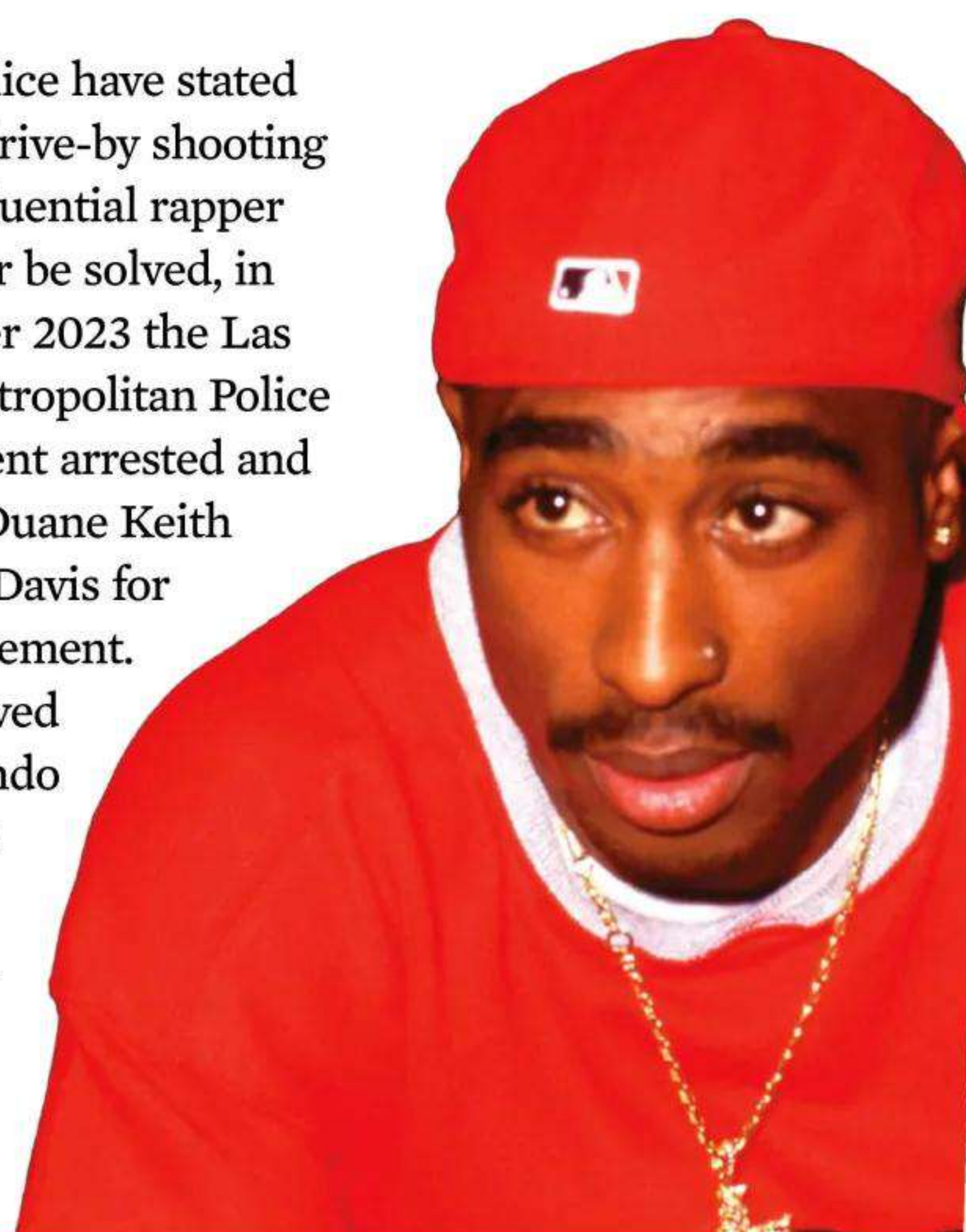


THE MURDER OF TUPAC SHAKUR



1996

While police have stated that the drive-by shooting of the influential rapper may never be solved, in September 2023 the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department arrested and charged Duane Keith 'Keffe D' Davis for his involvement. It is believed that Orlando Anderson fired the fatal shot.



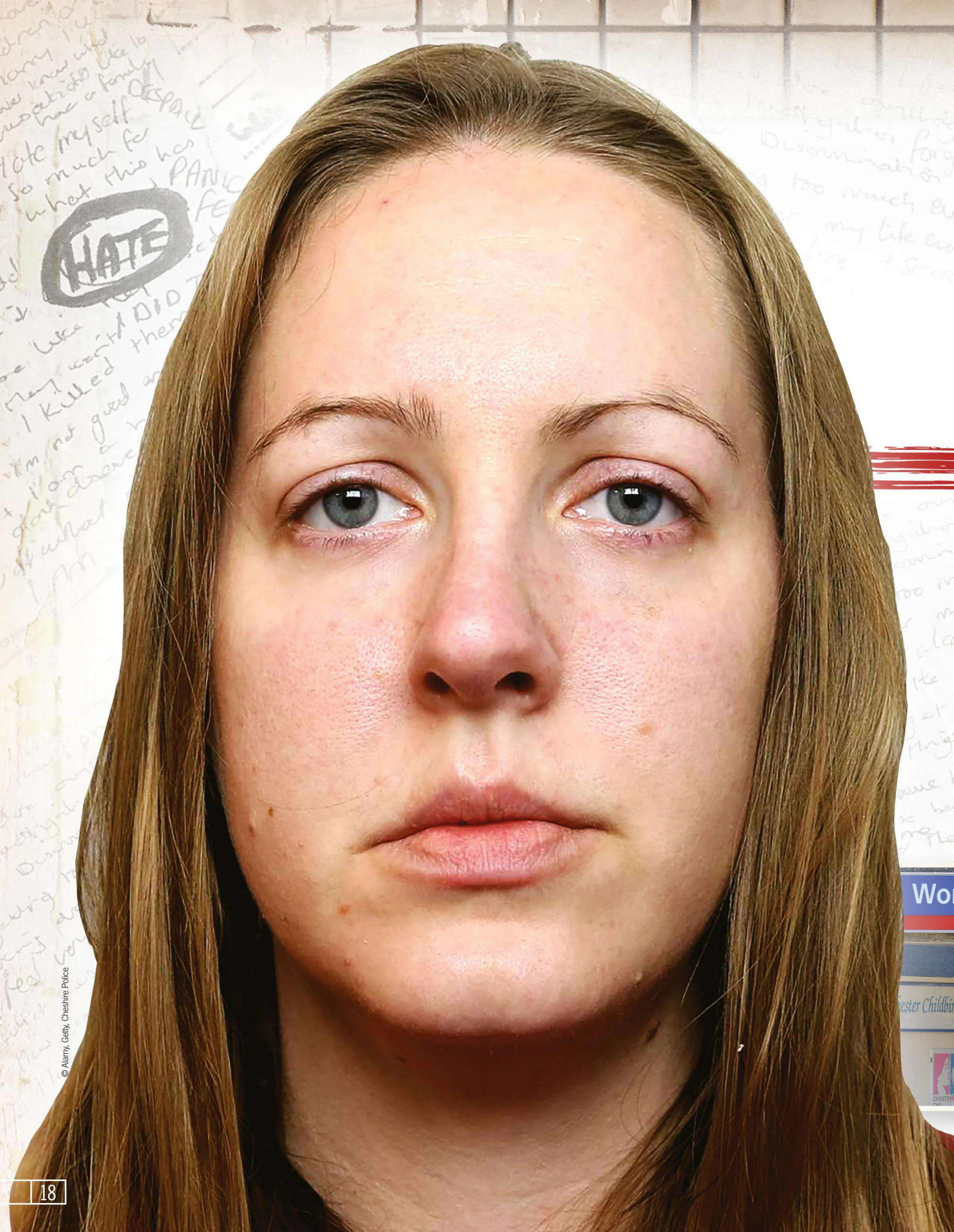
OSCAR PISTORIUS



2013

On Valentine's Day 2013, South African Paralympic champion and Olympian Oscar Pistorius fired four shots through the door of his bathroom, believing there was an intruder inside. The occupant was actually his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. Pistorius is serving 15 years for her murder.





SERIAL BABY KILLER

SHE WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLE BABIES
IN HER CARE, BUT LUCY LETBY REPEATEDLY BETRAYED THAT TRUST.
WHAT DROVE HER TO MURDER SEVEN HELPLESS INFANTS?

WORDS DR JOANNA ELPHICK

Social media photographs show a fun-loving young woman who likes nothing more than a girls' night out, dancing and drinking cocktails, while images of her bedroom, taken by the investigating police officers, suggest a slightly immature girl who still keeps cuddly toys on her bed. But looks can be deceiving: the woman smiling coyly in her graduation photo is the same one who was recently convicted of murdering seven babies and attempting to kill six more, making her the worst child killer in British history.

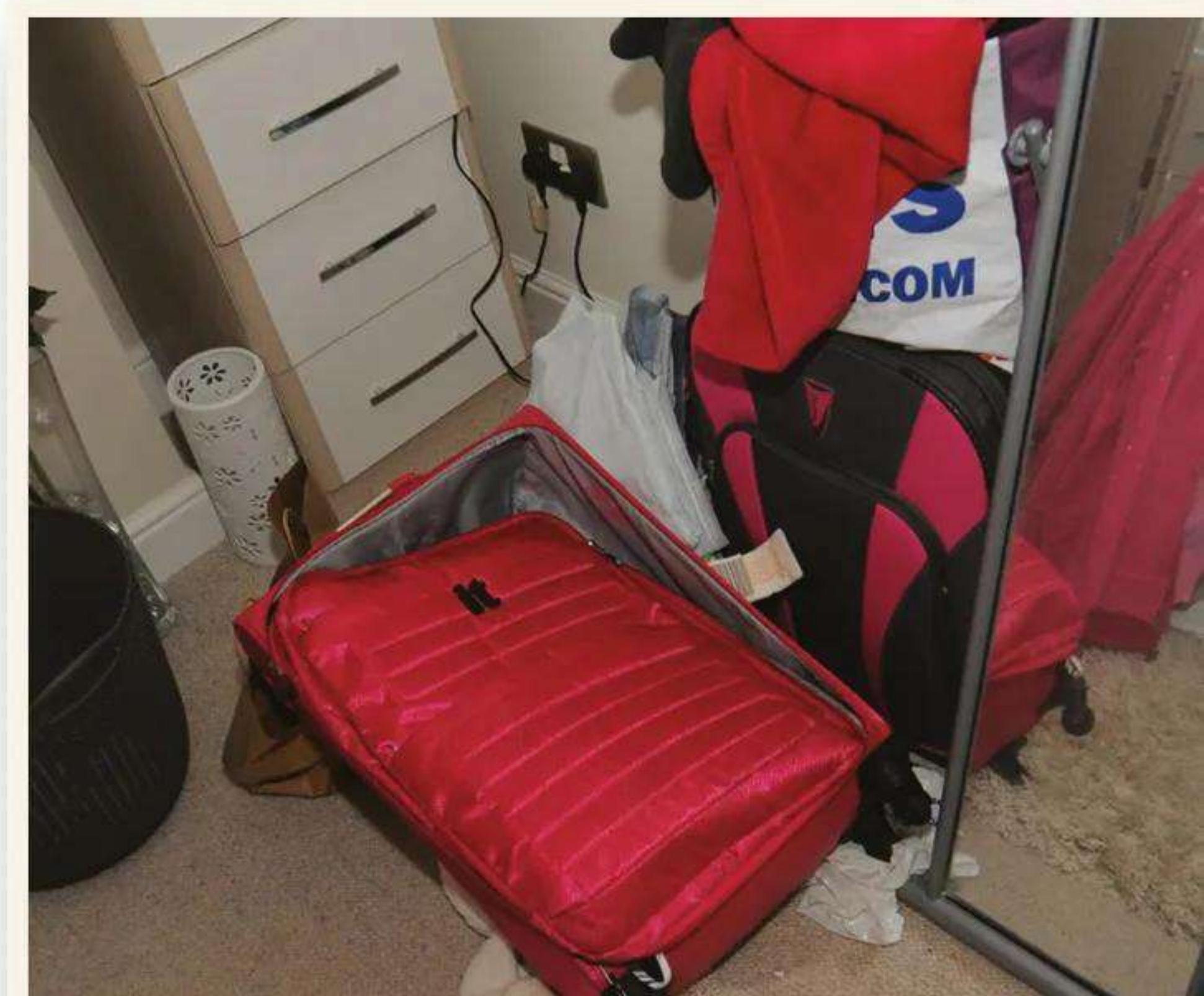
Letby's friends and family are still reeling at the verdict, convinced that the jury of eight women and four men have got it wrong. Her parents, John and Susan, have stood by their daughter despite the overwhelming evidence given by more than 200 witnesses, which included senior consulting paediatricians and her nursing co-workers. Childhood friends have promised to keep in touch, flatly refusing to believe that their pal could be responsible for murdering the babies in her care. But she did. So how did this monstrous creature get away with her vicious attacks, and why wasn't she stopped sooner?



FAR LEFT The building at the Countess of Chester Hospital where Letby worked

LEFT Letby is arrested and taken away in handcuffs at 6am on 3 July 2018, whilst her shocked father waits inside

RIGHT A huge number of confidential hospital records were discovered in bags and suitcases in Letby's house



A KILLER ON THE WARD

Lucy Letby claimed to have always wanted to be a nurse, choosing A levels that would help her achieve her ambition, and it was early on that she decided to specialise in paediatrics, feigning a love of children. She took every opportunity to gain experience working with sick infants and, in September 2011, she finally qualified as a nurse, attaining Band 5 status. Four months later she started working full-time at the Countess of Chester Hospital and by early 2015 she was offered her dream job, working in the neonatal unit. Little did the hospital know that they had introduced a fiend to their team. Shortly after her arrival, the deaths began. Her employers had given her easy access to premature and vulnerable babies, like leaving Dracula in charge of the blood bank, and it was here that desperate parents unwittingly turned to her for help and guidance.

In 2013, before Letby's arrival, two babies died in the Countess of Chester Hospital neonatal unit, followed by three more in 2014. However, shortly after Letby joined the ward in 2015, three babies died and another infant had to be resuscitated, all within the space of two weeks. Baby A died on 8 June, 90 minutes after being handed over to Letby on the nightshift. Baby B, Baby A's twin sister, collapsed the following night but fortunately survived. Babies C and D were not as lucky as Baby B. It was quickly noted that Lucy Letby had been the only nurse to have been on duty at each incident and a meeting was held between neonatal unit manager Eirian Powell, lead paediatrician Dr Stephen Brearey and the Director of Nursing at the time, Alison Kelly. At this stage it appeared to be a tragic coincidence but a quiet warning bell began to ring.

July passed with no major incidents and staff began to relax, assuming that their bout of bad luck was at an end, but by the beginning of August, the unexplained deaths

began again. Twin brothers E and F were born prematurely and kept under observation at the neonatal unit. Letby was working the nightshift again when Baby E died. His mother watched the killer nurse hovering over her newborn, unaware that she had just witnessed the murderer at work. Twin F was attacked the following night and it was at this point Letby should have been stopped. But despite telltale sample results that should have alerted the hospital that something was very wrong, she avoided detection. Luckily for Baby F, the infant was moved to another hospital, closer to his parents' home.

AN UNRELENTING PREDATOR

Throughout September 2015, Letby continued her attacks. The parents of tiny Baby G had just celebrated her first 100 days of life with banners strung up in the unit and a cake, shared with the nurses, when Letby attempted to murder the little girl. Having failed to achieve her goal the first time, the evil nurse attacked twice more, causing permanent damage to the infant.

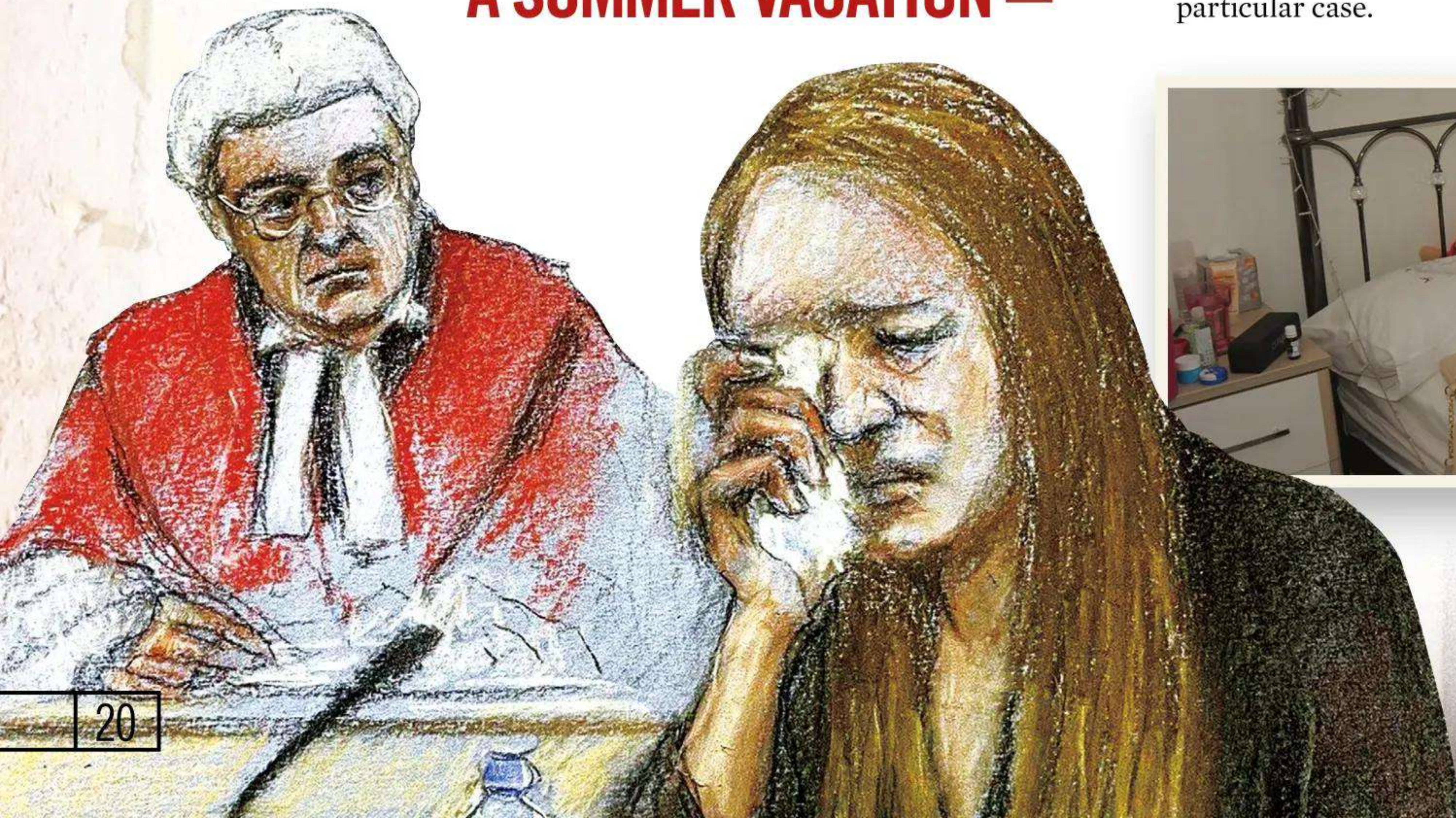
The jury struggled to find Letby guilty of the two attempted murders of Baby H, claiming that records suggested the child had received suboptimal care from the unit as a whole. During the trial the prosecution pointed out that the infant had dramatically improved once she'd been moved to a different hospital, away from Letby, but this was not enough to convince the jury of her guilt.

The death of Baby I in October, on the other hand, was placed firmly at the feet of the killer nurse. When her first attempt to snuff out the life of the premature baby girl failed, Letby tried again and again, finally murdering the infant on her fourth go.

Once again, doctors raised their fears with management but their concerns fell on deaf ears. Baby J died in November of the same year but the jury did not find Letby guilty of her murder. The prosecution pointed out that, up until her death, the baby had been doing well despite a very precarious start and one doctor did suggest that the baby looked as though she had been suffocated, but the case fell through.

As 2015 came to a close, the neonatal unit desperately hoped that 2016 would bring about a fresh start, but the inexplicable incidents continued to take place. Paediatrician Dr Jayaram walked in on Letby as she watched Baby K struggling to breathe. The child died three days later at another hospital but the jury failed to reach a verdict in this particular case.

“ HAVING KILLED BABY O, SHE WAITED NO MORE THAN 13 MINUTES BEFORE MURDERING P. IT WAS HER FIRST DAY BACK AFTER A SUMMER VACATION ”



LEFT Two cuddly toys sit upon an unmade bed, surely the bedroom of any typical young woman. Letby sobs when the image is shown to the jury

"I AM EVIL"

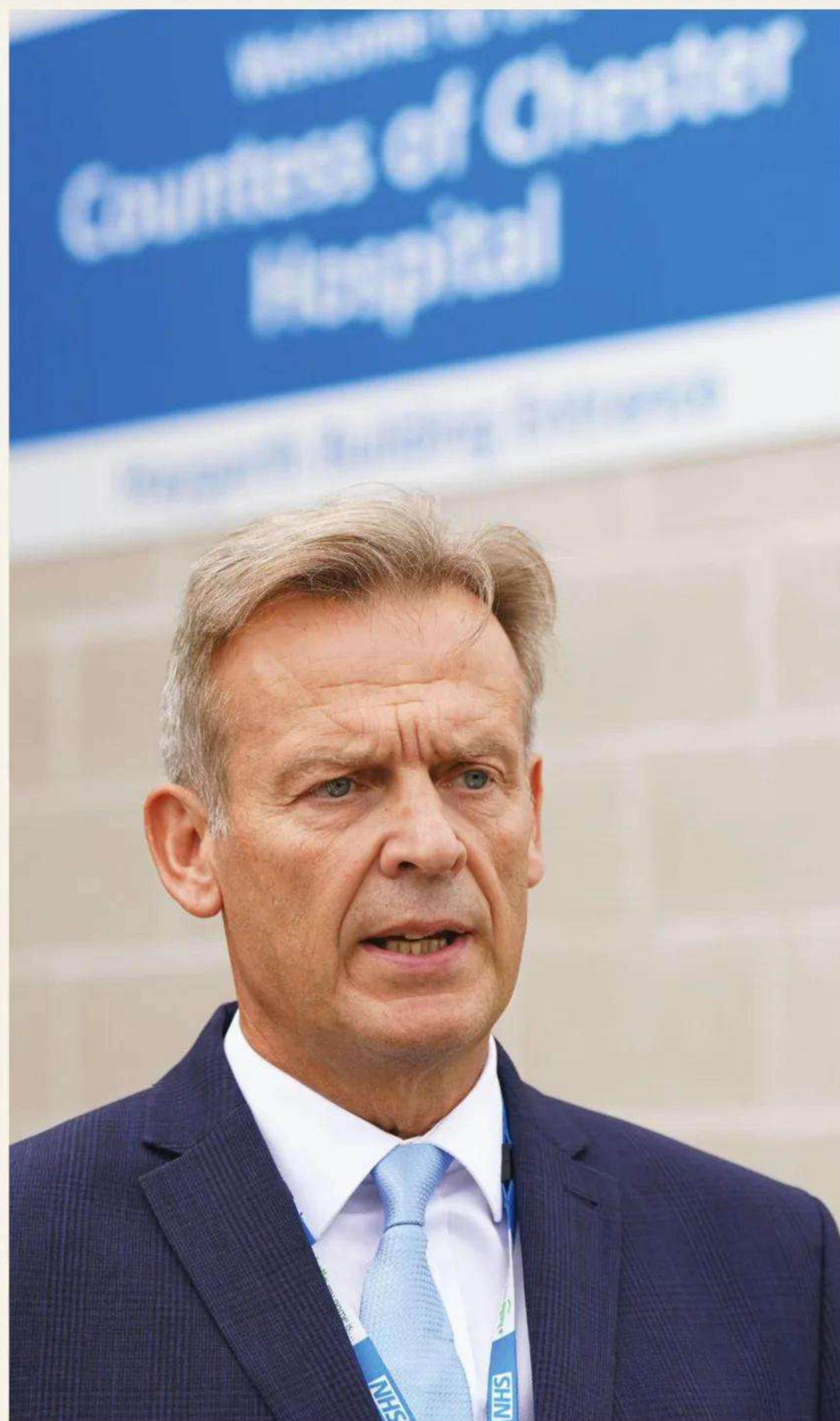
MASSSES OF POST-IT NOTES AND CODED DIARY ENTRIES HELPED POLICE IN THEIR INVESTIGATION

Investigators from the Cheshire County Constabulary discovered the letters, scraps of paper, Post-it Notes and diaries when they searched her home and the bizarre scribbles became a key element of the prosecution's case. The diaries were of particular interest since detectives quickly realised that they contained details of each attack, but the information was hidden within a coded system comprising of coloured asterisks. Various comments such as "I am evil" and "I killed them on purpose because I am not good enough" initially looked like strangely worded confessions and an outpouring of guilt, but criminal psychologist Dr David Holmes doubts that this is likely, stating on *Good Morning Britain* that she was most likely "doodling her thoughts" and merely pondering how this situation affects her rather than feeling any guilt or remorse for her behaviour. Comments such as "How can I get through it" certainly suggest this is the case.

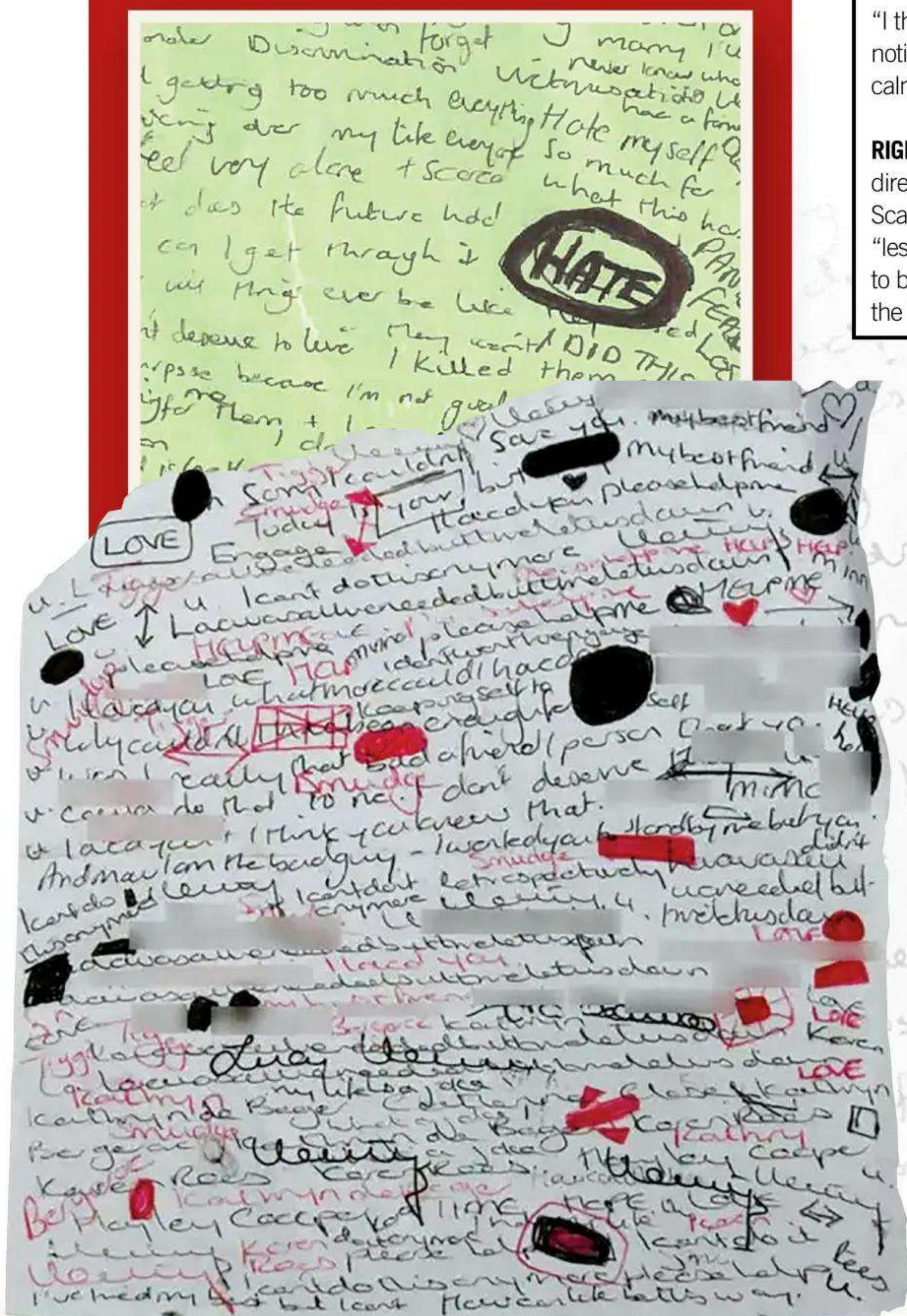


ABOVE Letby during her first police interview. She's quizzed about the inexplicable spike in baby deaths. "I think we'd all noticed," she calmly tells them

RIGHT Medical director Dr Nigel Scawn said "lessons continued to be learnt" from the Letby case



© Alamy, Getty, Cheshire Police



By April 2016, the connection between the disturbing mortality rate and Lucy Letby was undeniable and, since most deaths occurred during the nightshift, it was decided that she should be placed on day duty. Within two days, twin boys L and M had collapsed during the day shift. She was later accused of attempting to murder Baby N three times and ultimately found guilty of one attempt, on 3 June.

Babies O and P were two of a set of healthy, bouncing triplet boys but died at her hands later that same month. Having killed Baby O, she waited no more than 13 minutes before murdering P. It was her first day back after a summer vacation. Letby was accused of attempting to murder one last child, Baby Q, before she was taken off the neonatal ward, but jurors could not reach a verdict on this count.

Mortality rates dropped back to normal as Lucy Letby was redeployed into a clerical role with no patient interface opportunities. The killer was finally off the ward.

MANY MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

There were ten key opportunities to stop Lucy Letby but each plea from staff at the Countess of Chester Hospital fell on deaf ears. Managers were far more concerned with the reputation of the trust, which led senior paediatrician Dr Stephen Brearey to suggest there had been a 'cover-up'. Despite staff repeatedly raising their concerns over Letby, they did everything they could to avoid involving the police. Those working on the neonatal ward had spotted the connection between unexplained incidents and Letby's coinciding shifts as early as June 2015 but the link was initially shrugged off as a horrible coincidence.

At first, Letby's modus operandi was to inject oxygen into the IV tube, causing a fatal air bubble. A number of infants were found to have a blotchy skin rash, indicative of an air injection, but this was ignored. However, when she started poisoning infants with manufactured insulin, alarm bells *really* should have started ringing. Samples were sent away for analysis and the results clearly showed an abnormal spike, but a consultant decided there was no foul play and chose not to investigate further. Meanwhile,

Dr Brearey and Dr Jayaram continued to push for an investigation, eventually instigating an independent review themselves when hospital managers refused. Once again, the fact that Letby was present at each incident was noted.

Eventually, Dr Brearey's demands for a meeting with management were heard but the latter's misguided opinion that there was a lack of evidence meant that the killer nurse was not taken off the ward. In the following month she murdered two of three triplets as well as carrying out at least one other, non-fatal attack before she was finally removed from the neonatal ward and put on office duties. Shockingly, the police were not involved until May 2017, almost a whole year later.

In their desperate bid to avoid unwanted publicity and a negative reputation, the Countess of Chester Hospital has become the scene of one the worst cases of multiple child murders in UK history and the NHS could now face a civil compensation bill of more than £60m from the distraught parents in this case.

At 33, Lucy Letby has been handed 14 whole-life orders, meaning that she will remain in prison for the rest of her days. The judge commented that he could find no mitigating factors to reduce her sentence and that the whole-life tariff was a "just punishment". But what kind of person could contemplate murdering such innocent, vulnerable children?

A MONSTER LIKE NO OTHER

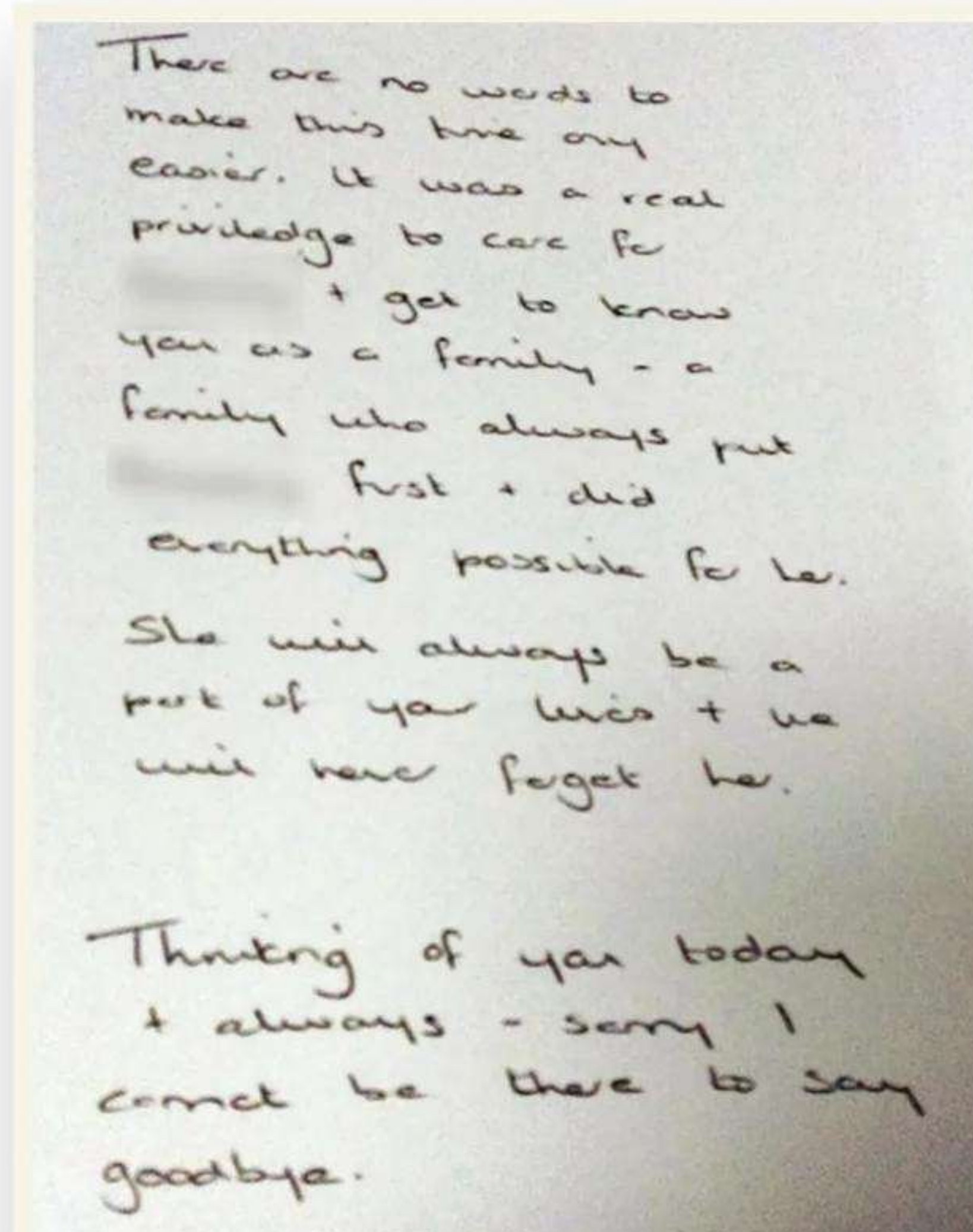
Her acts are utterly unthinkable for the majority of society and, now that the trial is over, psychiatrists and criminal psychologists such as Dr David Holmes and Dr Sohom Das are faced with the challenging task of unravelling the monster that is Lucy Letby. What instigated her pathological desire to kill? What was her fascination with twins and triplets? Can anything explain her actions?

Mr Justice Goss claimed that "there was a malevolence bordering on sadism" in Letby's actions and her total lack of remorse or empathy is clear from her behaviour around each of the attacks. Having attempted to murder twin babies L & M, Letby celebrated a winning bet on the Grand

RIGHT A police evidence tent outside the front of Letby's three-bedroom house in Chester, situated just over a mile from the Countess of Chester Hospital

RIGHT MIDDLE Letby kept a photograph on her phone of the words she had written in a sympathy card sent to grieving parents of a three-month-old baby girl that she had murdered

FAR RIGHT John and Susan Letby arrive outside Manchester Crown Court. Despite the overwhelming evidence, they remain utterly loyal to their daughter and flatly refuse to believe the allegations held against her



INSIDE LUCY LETBY'S MIND

HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS INSIGHTS INTO HIGH-PROFILE CRIMINALS. SO WHAT DOES PSYCHIATRIST DR SOHOM DAS THINK OF LUCY LETBY?

Q: NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE OFFERED UP A REASON FOR HER BEHAVIOUR. DO YOU BELIEVE SHE HAS MUNCHAUSEN BY PROXY OR IS SHE SIMPLY A SADIST?

A: It is difficult to know Letby's incentives, as she has not opened up her psyche to the world. However, we can look at some of the most high-profile healthcare professionals UK killers and compare and contrast. Beverley Allitt was convicted of murdering four infants, attempting to murder three others, and causing grievous bodily harm to a further six in 1991. She had Munchausen by proxy. This contentious disorder leads the individual to intentionally fake or even artificially create illness. The perpetrator gets some sort of perverse pleasure from feeding off the sympathy and attention that is afforded to the victim. With Harold Shipman, an English doctor, considered to be one of the most prolific serial killers in modern history, there seemed to be a 'god complex'. His thrill was from holding the fragility of death in his hands and the power of deciding who lives and dies.

With Letby, I imagine that there were elements of both of these notorious killers. They were probably other motives, such as power and control or a morbid fascination with the parents' grieving process. It is also possible that she took some perverse pleasure in deceiving parents – being the cause of their baby's death yet also the person who comforts them.

Q: WHAT WARNING SIGNS WOULD YOU EXPECT TO SEE FROM A WOMAN IN HER STATE?

A: For me, as a forensic psychiatrist, Letby is unique compared to the rest of the offender population I have assessed. One major reason is

that there were almost no red flag warnings. She wasn't aggressive, antisocial, hostile or cantankerous. As far as we know, there is no trauma in her history. She wasn't, for example, a victim of abuse. She had no criminal history or even issues relating to friends and peers. In fact, before baby deaths started spiking, she was seen by her colleagues as diligent and conscientious.

Q: THE MEDIA HAS REPEATEDLY MENTIONED THE 'GOD COMPLEX'. COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS AND DOES IT RELATE TO LETBY?

A: A god complex is a pattern in which an individual believes they have great power or importance, and that they are superior to others. People with a god complex may believe that they are infallible, that they have special powers, or that they are meant to rule or guide others. It's not a formal clinical diagnosis. There are a number of different factors that can contribute to the development of a god complex. These include people who have been praised excessively or given special treatment as children... people with certain personality traits, such as narcissism or entitlement... some mental health disorders, such as narcissistic personality disorder and schizophrenia, can also lead to the development of a god complex. Again, to my bafflement, none of these factors seem to be relevant for Letby. This is one of the reasons I find her so fascinating. If I had the opportunity to assess her myself, I would want to really dig down and see if there is anything from her past that might give us insight into her heinous actions.

BIO | DR SOHOM DAS

CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST

As an experienced Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr Sohom Das regularly prepares medico-legal reports on many psychiatric issues for various courts, including the Criminal Court. His 5-star reviewed book, *In Two Minds: Stories Of Murder, Justice And Recovery From A Forensic Psychiatrist*, is available now.



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National and also invited friends over for a house-warming party. She also murdered two of three triplets on her first day back after a summer holiday. A chilling text, "probably be back in with a bang, lol", was sent to a friend the day before. Dr Holmes describes Letby as having "a deficiency of humanity" who "creates the disaster" in order to gain a "sense of satisfaction". He also said that she is not a classic psychopath but "certainly rates highly on the psychopathy scale" with many strong psychopathic characteristics. He believes that she was born with these vile traits but as she grew up, she learnt to hide her callousness behind a "façade of normality".

Although there was a total lack of empathy, she maintained a macabre interest in the grieving parents, sending a sympathy card to the mother and father of Baby I, and keeping a close eye on the movements of the parents of babies E and F on social media. She also completed 2,381 online searches of various distraught family members.

Like many serial killers, Letby kept dark souvenirs of her victims. Photographic evidence of sympathy cards and thank-you notes from parents were all found hidden in her bedroom, along with photocopies of medical resuscitation records and blood test results. It is most likely that these memoirs were used to help her 'relive' the final moments of her victims, since these were some of the few times she actually felt anything. Such personalities find it impossible to gain satisfaction and joy from typical life experiences like the birth of a baby.

Letby is an inconceivably cruel woman who will spend the rest of her life behind bars. Meanwhile, experts will probably spend just as long trying to understand what made her this way so that, should another cold, callous creature come along, we might spot them earlier and protect our loved ones from their evil clutches.

As for Lucy Letby, Dr Holmes believes that "she is not a safe person to release". Let us all be grateful that the judge felt the same way.

INTERVIEW

BEING THE GOVERNOR

VERONICA BIRD SPENT 35 YEARS AS A FEMALE PRISON OFFICER, MANAGING SOME OF BRITAIN'S TOUGHEST LOCK-UPS. SHE'S DEALT WITH AWFUL PRISON CONDITIONS, RIOTS AND SOME OF THE UK'S MOST NOTORIOUS INMATES

WORDS BEN BIGGS

Tenacity seems to be key to prison governor Veronica Bird's success in rising to the top of a traditionally male-orientated career, and it's also a trait that helped her escape the poverty line and the increasingly abusive members of her family. She was brought up in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, in the 1950s as part of a coal-mining family of 11 that was fairly typical of the area and time. Her father, George Bird, had been involved in a mining accident 20 years previously that he shouldn't have survived. Yet miraculously, surgeons managed to patch the gaping hole that a fallen coal face had opened up in his head. He fully recovered – his physical health, at least.

Veronica suspects that compassion and empathy might have died in George that day, because her father was a bitter and spiteful man that she regarded as an ogre, with

his coal-blackened face, red eyes and mean temperament. The push that she needed to escape the drudgery of her life in Barnsley was when her controlling brother-in-law Fred decided to pull her out of school to work on a market stall shortly before she was due to take her exams. Veronica joined the police force and then, to completely avoid Fred's scrutiny, the prison service: she never looked back.

From remand centres in the early days, Veronica sought out bigger and bigger challenges as a governor. She started with a 'basket case' in the form of Brockhill prison (she turned it around in a year) and, later in her career, Veronica even went to advise a notorious Russian prison. **Real Crime** spoke to Veronica in London's Pentonville prison, discovering that the irony of her finding freedom behind bars is not lost on her.





Veronica inspects the workshop at Styal, which opened as a women's prison in 1962

When you entered the prison service, what sort of world was it?

Horrendous... it was Holloway prison. They had rats, cockroaches and the pigeons used to fly into the cells. In those days they used to have chamber pots, so the stench from the chamber pots... and everybody seemed to smoke. So that combination of smells was absolutely horrendous. The majority of women had a mental health problem so they were screaming, they were shouting, they were banging. It was really scary coming into prison for the first time. You've come [to Pentonville] today – was there any screaming, banging, or did it smell?

They didn't want the chamber pots in their cell so they used to tip them out the windows. So even when you walked out in the fresh air, the stench was so embedded in the concrete and walls. It was... yucky. I thought, "I won't cope with this, I won't stay. Just do it for two years and then move on." And 35 years later I was still there.

How different is crime today?

When I joined, it was prostitution, suicide was still a criminal offence, abortion was totally illegal. So the offences then were totally different from what women and men are going into prison for today. Today it's much more violent crime and of course the drug problem. We have an enormous problem today – how they get drugs into prison: through tennis balls stuffed with drugs thrown over the fence, oranges injected with drugs, throwing polo mints over the fence, and swallowing drugs wrapped in condoms, cling film or balloons. We'll never stop drugs coming in. I worked for a

BIO VERONICA BIRD

A former prison governor, Veronica rose from being a beat cop in the 1960s to a top position in the prison service before she retired, receiving an OBE from queen Elizabeth II for her work in turning around some of the toughest jailhouses in the UK.



number of prisons with mothers and babies, where some of the babies were born addicted. It's the most difficult and demanding job in the prison service. Having to wean the babies off the drugs... it's very hard to imagine, if you're a normal person, a baby of yours being a drug addict.

The babies haven't committed a crime, but the babies have never seen a man. When I joined, women didn't work in male prisons and men didn't work in female prisons. But for the babies never to see other children, never to see animals, never to see a man... how awful. The baby was in prison a whole year and then they went out into the real world. That was really stressful, knowing that. But things have moved so far now. Men in prisons now get lessons in parenting skills – my father could have done with that, couldn't he?

You've dealt with quite a few prison riots in your day.

The first day I went to New Hall prison, there were 150 young girls aged 15-21, all rioting. I didn't know any of the staff – I'd never been into the prison before – when I got the phone call, "Get in there and sort that lot out." How do you sort that lot out? There are contingency plans though, and it's just about getting the teeth to say, "This is what I want doing. Do it." People used to say I had this calming effect: "It's as if you sit back and everything just goes over your head."

“ IT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING JOB IN THE PRISON SERVICE, HAVING TO WEAN THE [PRISONERS'] BABIES OFF THE DRUGS ”

There were suicides on your watch too – that must be tough.

It got to the stage when I was at Brockhill prison, because we had two suicides there, where I was frightened of the telephone ringing at night when I was at home, because I thought there was another one. It's very distressing, dealing with a suicide, not just for the families but for the staff as well. So many of the suicides that take place are those coming in, on remand. Those first six weeks in the prison are a trigger point – for anybody that might just tip them over.

You often hear that prisoners have it easy these days. What do you think?

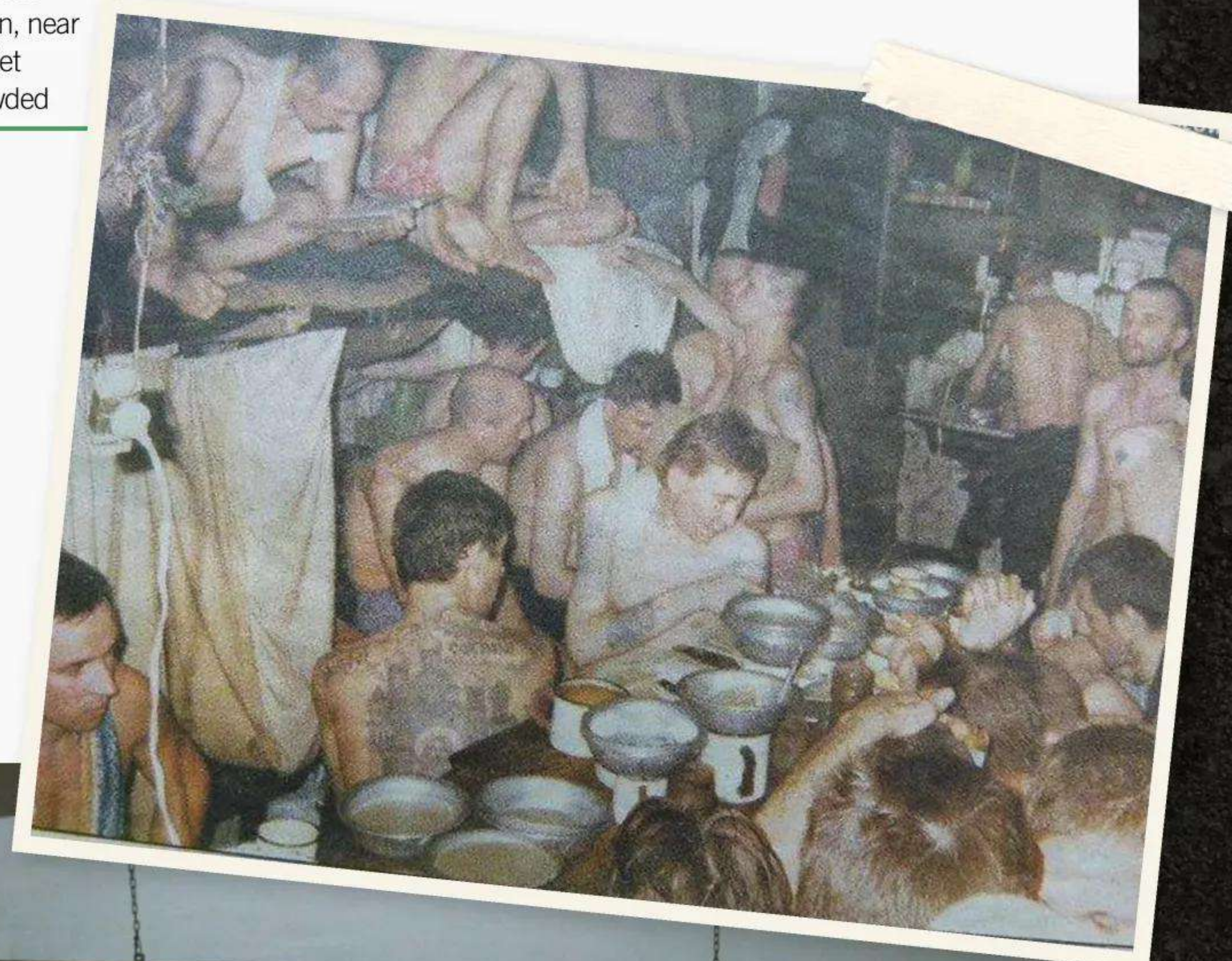
There was one woman prisoner who had been locked up in Durham prison. That only held about 25 dangerous female criminals. She'd been in Durham prison for three years – she'd murdered her son – when she came to Styal prison. In Durham she never saw open space. She never saw grass or anything, it was just the grey prison building. When she came to Styal she got on her hands and knees. She couldn't believe she could see grass. She cried stroking the grass, and she was frightened to go through the door of the house that she'd been allocated. That was just three years... to see somebody

OPPOSITE Real Crime spoke to Veronica in HM Prison Pentonville, London, one of the UK's oldest prisons – its death chamber was last used to hang a murderer in 1961

BELOW/RIGHT Veronica spent some time exchanging ideas with staff at Ivanovo prison, near Moscow. The former Soviet gulag is still very overcrowded

so distressed. Another woman who had been in prison for four years, I took her to a conference dealing with suicides and she cried just to feel carpet instead of the cold concrete cell floor.

You forget these small things that are taken for granted. It is tough, not being able to have what you want to eat, not to be able to have a bath or a shower when you want. When I



FIXING RUSSIA'S WORST PRISON

VERONICA WAS SENT TO PRISONS IN IVANOV, RUSSIA, FOR A STAFF EXCHANGE – CONDITIONS THERE WERE FAR WORSE THAN ANY UK PRISON SHE'D EVER BEEN TO

The gulags, the notorious labour camps of the Soviet era, weren't much worse than the women's and men's prison Veronica visited in 2002. Up to 400 people were crammed into small dormitories in the most unsanitary of conditions. Ventilation was far from adequate, so the stench would have been foul but for the fact that there weren't any smoking regulation – and everybody smoked. Rats and cockroaches were rife, disease spread easily from one unwashed body to the next in the close quarters, and the very communal mealtimes were a particularly disorganised (first come, first served) and unsanitary affair.

When Veronica and her team talked with their Russian counterparts about how they ran their respective prisons, there was much exclamation on both sides. Russian officers gasped at the no-smoking rule in UK prisons, while Veronica and company couldn't get their heads around the fact there was no bail system in Russia at the time: regardless of your crime or innocence, if you were arrested you could be held for a year or more in any one of these hell-holes before your trial.



“ ONE OF THE SCARIEST NIGHTS IN PRISON... WAS WHEN LEEDS UNITED WERE PLAYING FOOTBALL, SCORED A GOAL AND I THOUGHT THE ROOF WAS GOING TO COME OFF THE PRISON ”

joined, prisoners could only have one bath a week, the water was measured to nine inches [23 centimetres] and they were given a piece of soap the size of the nail on my little finger. It was absolutely appalling.

But there are those people who can't survive without prison. In one tragic case at Styal prison, this woman was released, couldn't cope with the outside world and came back pleading to be let back into prison. She came with some petrol in a can, threatening to set herself on fire if we didn't take her in. There are people who don't want to leave because they've got warmth, food, clothes and they've got friends in prison.

There was one woman who came into prison on 12 consecutive Christmases. She used to go and smash a window in October, go up to the police and tell them that she's smashed a window. The police charged her with criminal damage, and she would get three or four months in prison with her friends, then she was out. When you've got people like that you think, "What are we trying to do, it's a waste of time."

There was also a big outcry about televisions in cells. But actually, that saved a lot of money for the prison service because men particularly like to watch TV, especially football. One of the scariest nights in prison when I went in was when Leeds United were playing football, scored a goal and I thought the roof was going to come off the prison. They all started shouting, banging, screaming. I thought there was going to be a riot. But the men went into their cells to watch telly and it reduced the number of staff that we needed. So it saved money.

What significant changes have there been since you started in the prison service?

When I joined, prisons did all the escorting of prisoners, covered all of the crown courts. Now, it's not prison officers that take them, it's the private companies that have the contracts. In my early days you spent more time out of the prison than in. The other big saving is with the video links to the courts: remand prisoners were taken every single week

to court and that could be for six or even nine months. It's an enormous amount of money saved.

Of all the prisons you've worked in, which one have you made the most impact on?

I think the best was Brockhill prison. That was the worst prison in the country at that time. It was filthy dirty, there was no clothing for the women other than what they were wearing – male prison pyjamas or dressing gowns... how degrading. To see them get their own clothing, give them a duvet cover and curtains for their cell, then they took some pride in themselves. If they take pride, like you would when you have your hair done or you buy a new jumper, you feel good. I mean, wearing male clothes – it was degrading. Beyond belief, it really was. In one year, to see it change in the prison was wonderful. It's the same with the prison staff: some are trying to cope with very difficult circumstances. One prison officer had his two children killed by a hit-and-run. Trying to deal with staff and prisoners – you have to make sure you give to both.

Is there a prison you would like to have gone to?

I was offered an open prison for women, but I think I would have been bored. It wasn't challenging enough. For me, working the big prisons with the more dangerous prisoners had more satisfaction, and more you could contribute. Because of my experience over the years I knew what worked and what didn't. At the moment, the prison service has lost 7,000 officers with its cutbacks. They're bringing 2,500 in but they're not experienced. It's a very complex job.

How have new forensic technologies affected prisons?

People think DNA is the be-all and end-all. I give talks, and recently a woman raised the subject of the death penalty and whether it should be reintroduced. I said no and this woman said, "With DNA, you can't get a wrongful conviction." That's not true, and we mustn't become over-reliant on it. We can't just take it that it's perfect. It's a big help and hopefully a deterrent, but has it had any effect on the crime rate? Not yet.



Veronica receiving her OBE from the queen in 2002. When she first received the letter about the honour, Veronica believed it was a joke

TOP The women's sewing shop at Ivanovo prison, Russia, which Veronica visited is at least a lot less crowded and more sanitary than the men's dormitories, where hundreds are crammed into a small living area

ABOVE-RIGHT The refuge of the prison chaplain's office at Styal women's prison in Cheshire, England – or 'God's office' as it was affectionately known

JAIL BIRDS

VERONICA GOT TO KNOW SOME INFAMOUS - AND INTERESTING - WOMEN PRISONERS IN HER TIME



MARY BELL

Manslaughter – 12 years
In 1968, 11 year-old Bell and her 13-year-old friend Norma Joyce Bell (no relation) killed four-year-old Martin Brown and three-year-old Brian Howe in two separate incidents. The age of the killers shocked Britain. Bell was kept in a secure centre and was relatively pampered until she was 16, when she moved to an adult women's prison, which proved a shock for her.



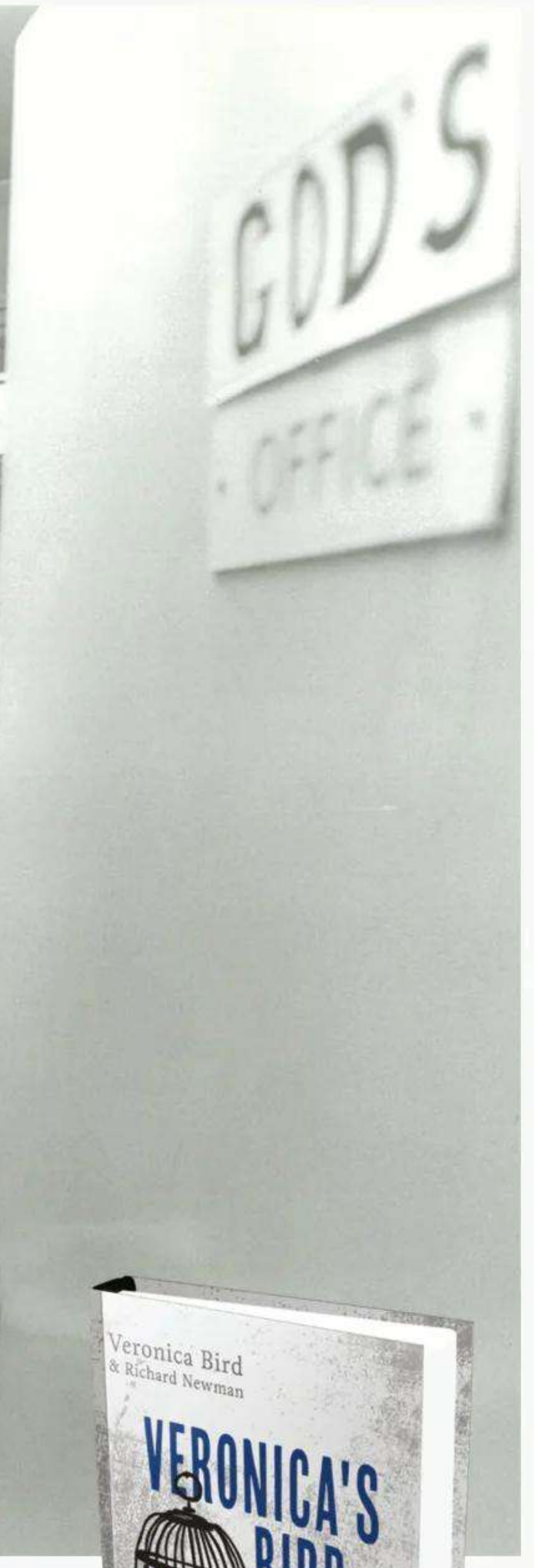
CAROLE RICHARDSON

Murder, conspiracy – life imprisonment
As one of the 'Guildford Four', 17-year-old Carole was convicted on decidedly shaky evidence for her role in the 1974 IRA pub bombings. Her conviction, along with the other three, was quashed years later amid accusations of police corruption. The judge even pushed for convicting Carole of treason, which carried the death penalty at the time.



CAROL HANSON

Murder – life imprisonment
Around the same time as Moors Murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were making headlines in the UK, Hanson was put away with her husband for raping and murdering a ten-year-old girl. She was hated by others in prison and lived in constant fear of assault and finding glass in her food. She protested her innocence to the end.



What can be done to better improve the lives of prisoners?

I think if you can get prisoners into employment and a roof over their heads on release then they're far less likely to re-offend. One of the best training methods I've found was when you teach prisoners to cook. When I was in Styal prison the prisoners learned to cook in individual houses. In Thorn Cross prison there was a cookery course – all of those young men there who went on the cookery course left with a job. Yes, it was low-paid work but it was a job, they had income and they had something to look forward to. Without work, without a roof over your head you're going to re-offend.

Also, training in prisons: painting, decorating, car mechanics... we even train prisoners at Lindholme prison

near Doncaster to do the maintenance of railways. That's terrific because they get good wages.

When you got your OBE, you thought it was a joke at first...

With prison officers, it's very much like the TV show *Porridge* – they are always playing tricks and bringing humour in. When the letter arrived, the envelope said, "10 Downing Street" on it. At first I thought it was just some silly survey Tony Blair [the prime minister of the UK at the time] was doing. When I opened it three days later I thought, "Which prison officer's playing tricks with me?" I didn't believe it. It was very hard to think that I had actually been awarded an OBE.

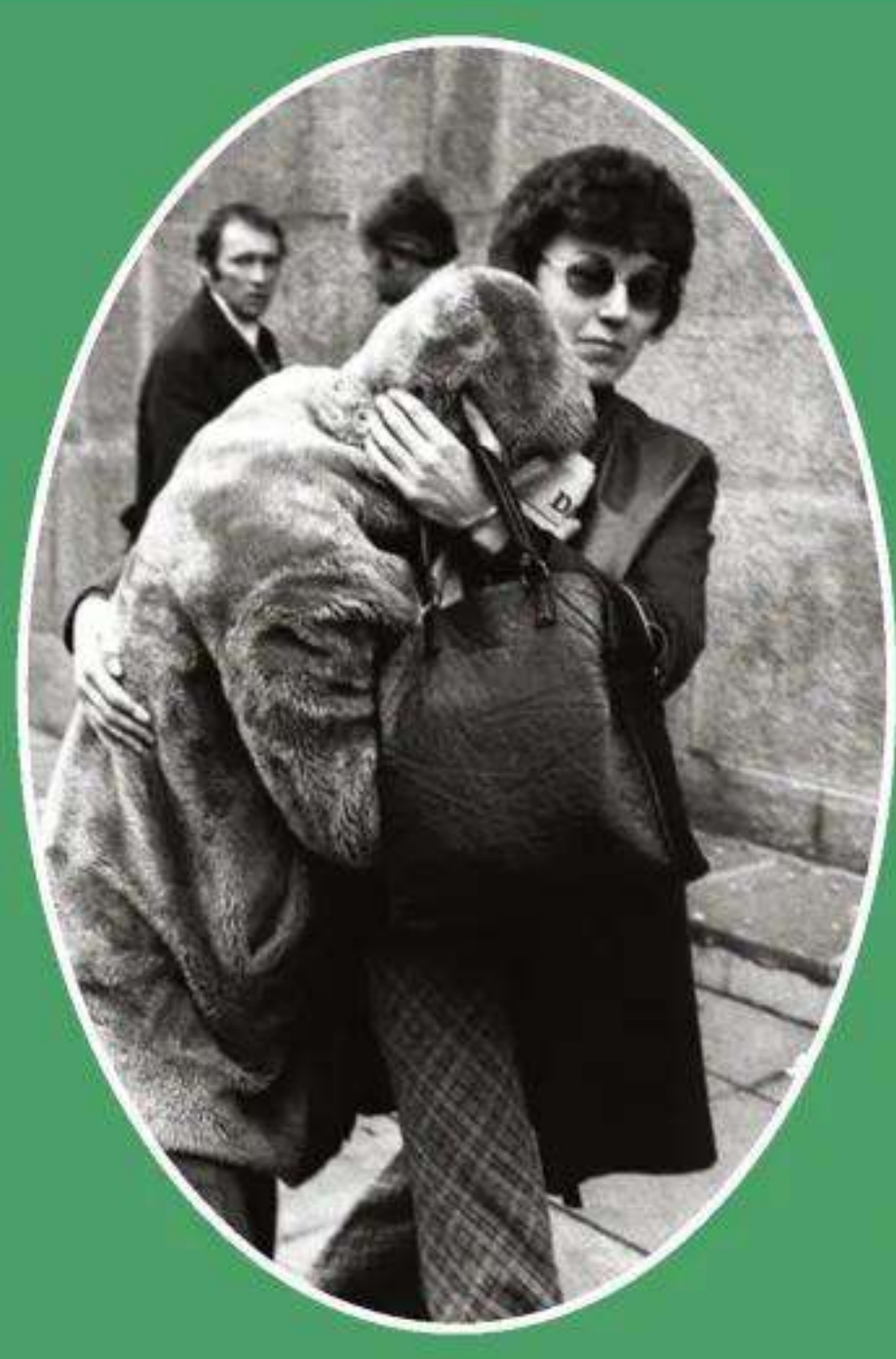
Veronica's Bird, the story of 35 years in the prison service, by Veronica Bird and co-author Richard Newman, is available now from Clink Street Publishing.

© Alamy; Getty Images



MYRA HINDLEY
Murder – Life imprisonment

Probably the most infamous of Veronica's charges at Holloway prison and then Durham, Hindley was one-half of the notorious Moors Murderers alongside Ian Brady, convicted of torturing, raping and murdering at least five youngsters in the 1960s. She kept very much to herself, even taking food to her cell when the prison staff threw Christmas parties for the inmates.



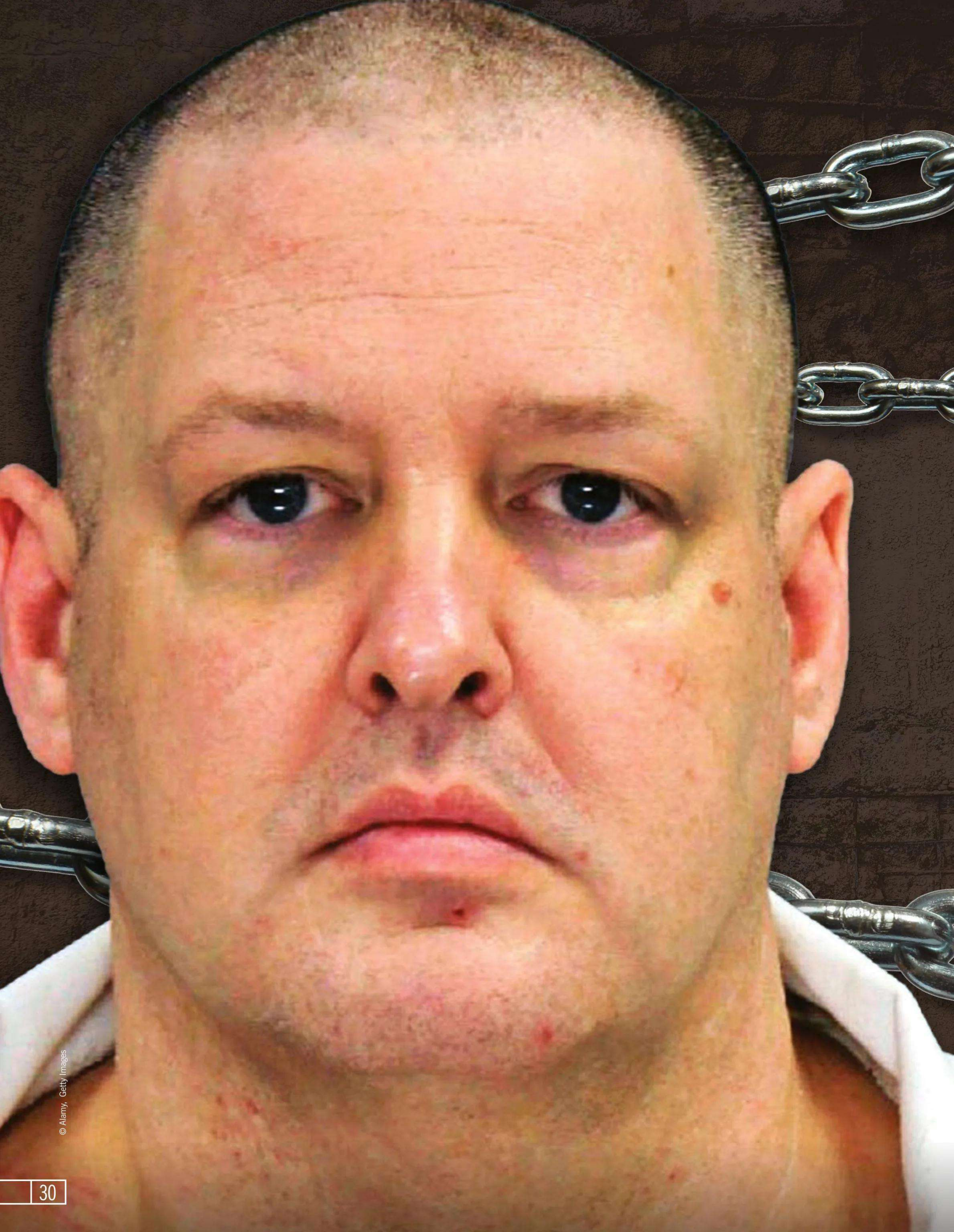
PATRICIA CAIRNS
Conspiracy – 6 years

The former nun turned prison officer met murderer Myra Hindley in 1970 in Holloway prison, fell in love with her and plotted a failed attempt to break her out of prison in 1973. Veronica and her colleagues had to be careful that they dealt with her according to the letter, because Cairns was all too familiar with prison regulations and could have manipulated the guards.



LARISSA KULIGINA
Theft – 4 years

Russia in the late 90s was no place to get caught for petty crimes. The draconian system of Soviet punishment was apparently still in effect: Kuligina, a villager from northeast Moscow, stole some potatoes, bed linen and a few other household items worth about £11, yet got sent to Ivanovo prison for this minor offence. At the time, her case was not uncommon in Russia.





PSYCHO ESTATE AGENT

TODD KOHLHEPP'S MANY CRIMES REMAINED UNKNOWN UNTIL A KNOCK ON THE DOOR STARTED A PROCESS OF UNRAVELLING THAT BROUGHT THEM ALL TO LIGHT. BECAUSE THE TRUTH CAN'T STAY LOCKED AWAY FOREVER...

WORDS JAMES MCMAHON

“You’re trying to find the girl...” said Todd Kohlhepp, a Realtor from South Carolina, then 45 years old, as detectives Tom Clark and Mark Gaddy, both Senior Investigators in the Violent Crimes Unit of the Spartanburg Country Sheriff’s Office, approached his home.

Clark knew Kohlhepp. The two had been neighbours for a time. He and Gaddy also knew that the missing Kala Brown and her boyfriend, Charlie Carver, last had their phones ping on the site of one of Kohlhepp’s other properties in Woodruff. Some of Clark and Mark Gaddy’s colleagues were on route to the location now.

“This is where we’re at, Mr Kohlhepp” said Detective Clark as he ushered him inside. “My sergeant served a search warrant on your property. We have Kala...”

“Excuse me?” replied Kohlhepp.

“We have Kala,” replied Detective Clark, calmly. “She was locked in a container. You’re under arrest.”

The time: just past 8am. The date: 3 November 2016.

Brown and Carver had been missing since 31 August. Both had sometimes worked for Kohlhepp, assisting him in readying homes for his real estate company. Charlie had been last seen – captured on

CCTV leaving work – that same day. He and Kala were due to have dinner with Lindsey Mayson, a friend of Kala’s who had yet to meet her boyfriend.

Though the pair stopped replying to the texts of concerned loved ones – attempts to call them rang out – updates on the couple’s wellbeing appeared on Carver’s Facebook page. Some of Charlie’s friends received strange messages from the account, “I’m just missing to everyone else. We [are] both ok. there is only one person that knows where we are ... the person that means the most to me and kala she know where we are and we are coming that way for ever.”

Carver’s mother, Joanne Shiflet, was suspicious. She’d tell Dateline that she and her son had some form of communication every day.

Joanne called the manager of the apartment complex where Kala and Charlie lived. Could he do a welfare check? Entering the

“ CARVER WAS MURDERED DUE TO HIS ‘SMART MOUTH’ THAT KOHLHEPP FOUND OFFENSIVE ”

RIGHT Kohlhepp, as a younger man when he was forging a career in real estate

BELOW A former employee of Kohlhepp's real estate company recalls; "He was always whining about having to collect rent from what he called deadbeats. He would say, 'I'm going to go shoot my guns and blow off steam...'"



“BEYOND REHABILITATION”

PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTS DESCRIBED KOHLHEPP AS “EXPLOSIVE” AND “PREOCCUPIED WITH SEXUAL CONTENT” AS A CHILD

Born on 7 March 1971, Kohlhepp's parents had divorced when he was two years old. His upbringing had been chaotic, he'd been moved around a lot, and he was the archetypal problem child. His first sexual assault that his mother had spoken of was committed after he'd left his native Florida and moved to Arizona to live with his biological father, when Kohlhepp was 15. Kohlhepp, holding a .22 revolver to

his victims head, had taken the victim to his residence, bound her, sealed her mouth with tape and sexually assaulted her. Upon taking the girl back to her home, he threatened to destroy her family if she disclosed the incident to anyone. Bravely, the young woman didn't comply, and Kohlhepp was soon indicted on charges of kidnapping and sexual assault, and added to the state's sex offenders register.

property, the manager found Kala's dog, a Pomeranian breed called Romeo, without food and water. He'd been there for some time. “That dog is her baby. She'd never leave him like that,” Kala's mother, Bonnie Newsom, told *Dateline* when she was interviewed by the programme in October.

Bonnie was right. Kala hadn't left Romeo voluntarily. She'd been imprisoned in a nine-metre-long shipping container on Kohlhepp's Woodruff property, “chained inside like a dog,” as Sheriff Chuck Wright would tell local NBC affiliate WYFF, for the duration of her disappearance. The body of Charlie Carver lay in a shallow grave nearby, his vehicle concealed in a ravine, shrouded by brush.

The police found two more corpses on the property: Johnny Coxie, aged 29, and his wife, Meagan Coxie, aged 26. The couple had been reported missing in the days leading up to Christmas in 2015.

A tragic outcome. The death of hope and freedom, at least physically, for Kala Brown. But it was also the start of a process that would snowball towards the resolution of one of North Carolina's most notorious unsolved murders.

A MOTHER'S INSTINCT

On the eve of his interrogation with Tom Clark and his Sheriff's Office Violent Crimes Unit colleague, Mark Gaddy, Kohlhepp quickly admitted to the murder of

“ KALA HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN A SHIPPING CONTAINER ”

Carver. He had no choice. The jig was up. Kala had already told police that she had seen her boyfriend being killed by Kohlhepp.

Later, Kohlhepp's mother would tell detectives that Carver was murdered due to his “really smart mouth,” which Kohlhepp found offensive. Kohlhepp claimed that he had held Brown captive because she hadn't done anything to deserve harm. Kala would tell police that Kohlhepp had murdered Carver because he was “mad at her.” Throughout her imprisonment, Brown was repeatedly raped and dissuaded from attempting to escape, having been shown the graves of Kohlhepp's previous victims.

During the interrogation, Kohlhepp told Clark and Gaddy of his desire to provide financial support for his girlfriend's 10-year-old daughter's future college education. He then asked if he could hand over his chequebooks to his mother, as well as a painting of a horse that adorned the walls of his residence in Moore. The artwork was a cherished possession of his grandmother's, and he wanted his mother to inherit it.

Clark and Gaddy agreed to Kohlhepp's requests, but he would have to talk. They would receive guidance from an unlikely source in how they might steer the conversation.

Not long after his arrest, Regina Tague, Kohlhepp's mother, contacted Rick Gregory, an investigator from the 7th Circuit Solicitor's Office. She relayed a conversation she'd had with her son, who had phoned her from his



**MEAGAN COXIE AND
JOHNNY COXIE**



internment. Tague shared that she had inquired if there were additional victims, to which Kohlhepp chillingly replied, “More than you can count on two hands.”

Tague filled Gregory in on her son’s history, telling him that Kohlhepp had a prior conviction for the kidnap and sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl in 1987. In sentencing him, the judge in this case had remarked that Kohlhepp was “exceptionally intelligent and should be academically promoted,” but also that he was “behaviourally and emotionally perilous” and “beyond rehabilitation”.

Following his 15-year incarceration for the crime, Kohlhepp relocated to Spartanburg and resumed living with his mother. While in prison he’d graduated from Central Arizona College with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He found employment between January 2002 and November 2003 as a graphic designer at a company in Spartanburg. Then, in 2003, he enrolled at Greenville Technical College. The subsequent year, Kohlhepp transferred to the University of South Carolina Upstate, where he graduated in 2008, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a focus on Marketing. Kohlhepp, to all extents and purposes, looked to be proving the judge wrong.

Despite his status as a registered sex offender, Kohlhepp managed to obtain a real estate licence on 30 June 2006 by falsifying information about his felony on his application. He established a successful real estate firm, gaining recognition as one of the top-selling agents

in the Carolina region. In May 2014, he used some of his spoils to purchase the property where Kala and Charlie would be found two years later, 100 acres situated around nine miles from the Moore community, for the sum of \$305,632. He invested an additional \$80,000 in a fence to enclose the property.

Investigator Gregory noted that Tague initially spoke highly of her son, that she was proud of his post-prison behaviour as she helped him adjust to life after incarceration. And yet as the conversation between investigator and mother played out, she confessed that Todd’s disposition shifted over time. He got angry easily. Erratic. Prone to intense moods. He had received a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder. Regina Tague said that her son had purchased a motorcycle, despite not knowing how to ride.

“Do you remember the Superbikes Murders?” Regina Tague asked Gregory. He did. Everyone in North Carolina law enforcement did, ashamed and frustrated that one of the state’s most decadent slayings remained unsolved over a decade since they’d occurred.

Tague spoke nervously. “You might want to ask my son about that...”

THE SUPERBIKES MURDERS

On the morning of 6 November 2003, someone walked into Superbike Motorsports, a motorcycle dealership situated in the small town of Chesnee, and shot everyone present in the head.

The victims were founder and owner, Scott Ponder, aged 30; his mother, Beverly Guy, 52; a shop mechanic named Chris Sherbert, 26, and Ponder’s friend and service manager, Brian Lucas, 30. Nothing was stolen from the scene. An envelope filled with cash was left untouched and visible. The Superbikes Murders – as they would come to be known – was the

TOP-LEFT Meghan Coxie waitressed at a Waffle House in Roebuck, South Carolina, where she met Kohlhepp

TOP-RIGHT The Superbike Motorsports store in Chesnee, South Carolina, owned by Scott Ponder, where Kohlhepp would take four lives

ABOVE Police search a field on the Woodruff property owned by Todd Kohlhepp

TODD KOHLHEPP



region's most shocking and senseless crime in years. It baffled detectives.

The police made significant mistakes in the resulting investigation, wrongfully directing their suspicion towards Ponder's grieving widow, Melissa. Pregnant at the time of her husband's murder, on one visit for routine police questioning, Melissa changed her baby's nappy, which was then clandestinely collected and sent to a laboratory for DNA testing without her knowledge.

DNA samples had already been obtained from the four victims at the crime scene, and so when authorities cross-checked the sample from the requisitioned nappy with those collected at Superbike Motorsports,

“ THE POLICE MADE SIGNIFICANT MISTAKES IN THE INVESTIGATION ”

they discovered that Brian Lucas, not Scott, was the biological father of the baby. Melissa vehemently denied the possibility that anyone but Scott could be the father, and insisted on a retest. The second time around reaffirmed the initial findings. Melissa decided to cease communication with the police unless legal representation was present – a decision that only heightened the detectives' suspicions.

That was until the police discovered that the DNA samples of Scott and Brian had been mixed up. Their

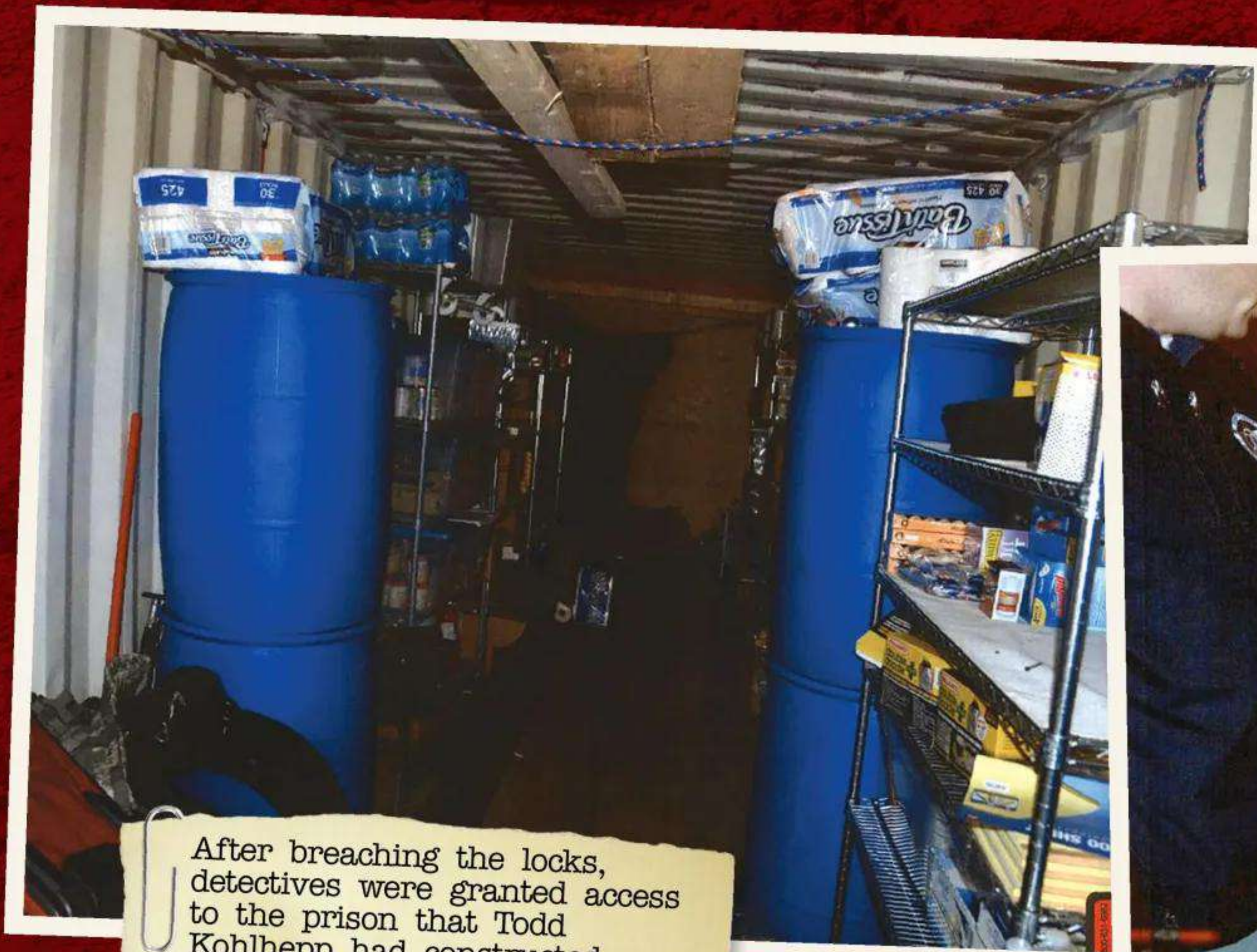


TOP-LEFT In an effort to hide Charlie Carver's car, Kohlhepp modified the white sedan's appearance by spray-painting it brown and

camouflaging it under tree branches
LEFT The land around Kohlhepp's property was taped off and searched by the police

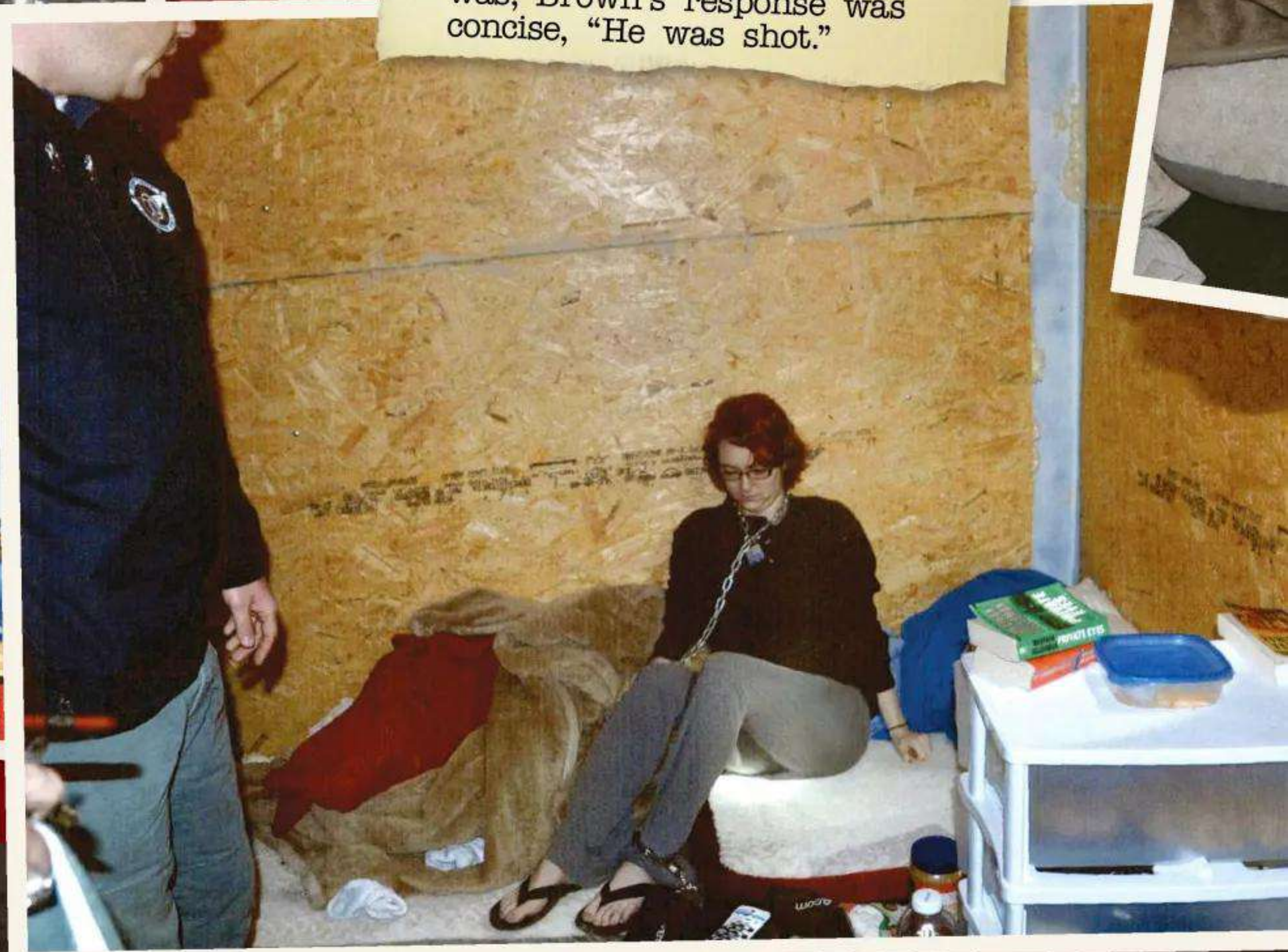
INSIDE KALA'S CAGE OF CRUELTY

CELLPHONE SIGNALS LED LAW ENFORCEMENT TO KOHLHEPP'S SECLUDED ESTATE, WHERE THEY DISCOVERED MISSING WOMAN KALA BROWN. HERE'S A GLIMPSE INTO THE HELLSCAPE IN WHICH SHE'D BEEN IMPRISONED



After breaching the locks, detectives were granted access to the prison that Todd Kohlhepp had constructed, and where Kala Brown would spend two miserable months.

Kala Brown was discovered restrained with a chain around her neck. When asked where her boyfriend Charlie Carver was, Brown's response was concise, "He was shot."



KALA BROWN AND CHARLIE CARVER



BRIAN LUCAS



BEVERLY GUY AND SCOTT PONDER



bodies had been found side-by-side at the crime scene; the samples had been contaminated. The shaming of Melissa Ponder and the sheriff department's inability to put a name to the crime resulted in embarrassment and anger being directed at them. Tensions in the community were high. Sheriffs looking to be re-elected campaigned on promises of resolution, and yet the question as to who actually committed the Superbike Murders would remain unsolved for 13 years – right until they managed to get a man called Todd Kohlhepp into a room with them...

ANSWERS EMERGE

Under interrogation, Kohlhepp confessed to the murders of Johnny and Meagan Coxie.

Kohlhepp claimed to have first encountered Meagan when he saw her panhandling on Reidville Road in Spartanburg County. Feeling sympathetic to her situation, he claimed that he offered the couple a job cleaning houses for his real estate business.

According to Kohlhepp, the couple then came to his property in Woodruff to collect cleaning supplies, until Johnny attempted to rob him with a knife. "He came at me, and I put two in his chest," Kohlhepp recounted.

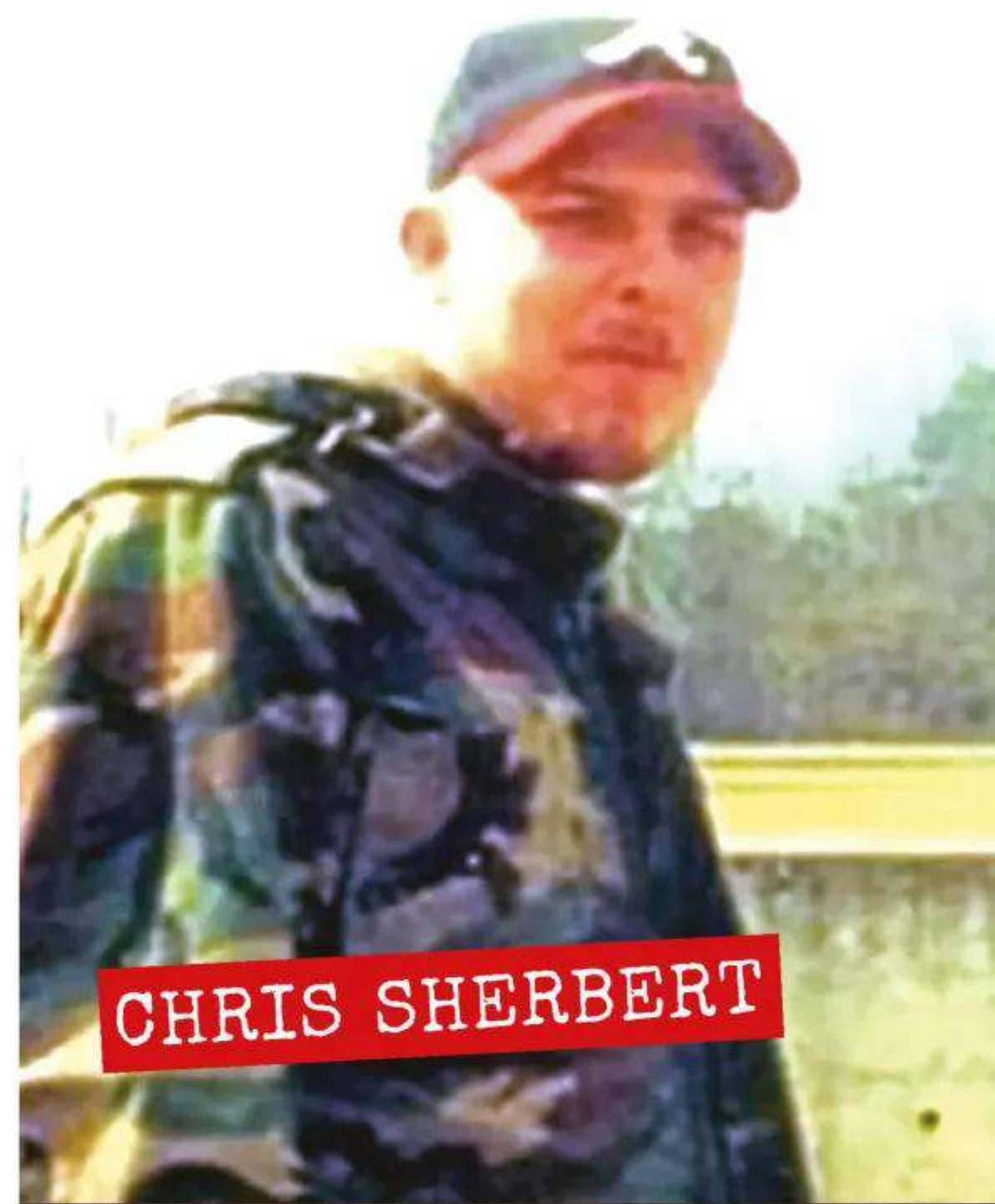
As for Meagan, Kohlhepp claimed he didn't kill her right away. "For the first time, I had a little bit of a panic," he admitted. "I didn't know what in the hell to do with her."

Kohlhepp said he handcuffed Meagan and left her on the floor of one of his buildings while he buried her husband's body. He then cleaned his metal shipping container – the same one he would later use to confine Kala – and relocated Meagan there.

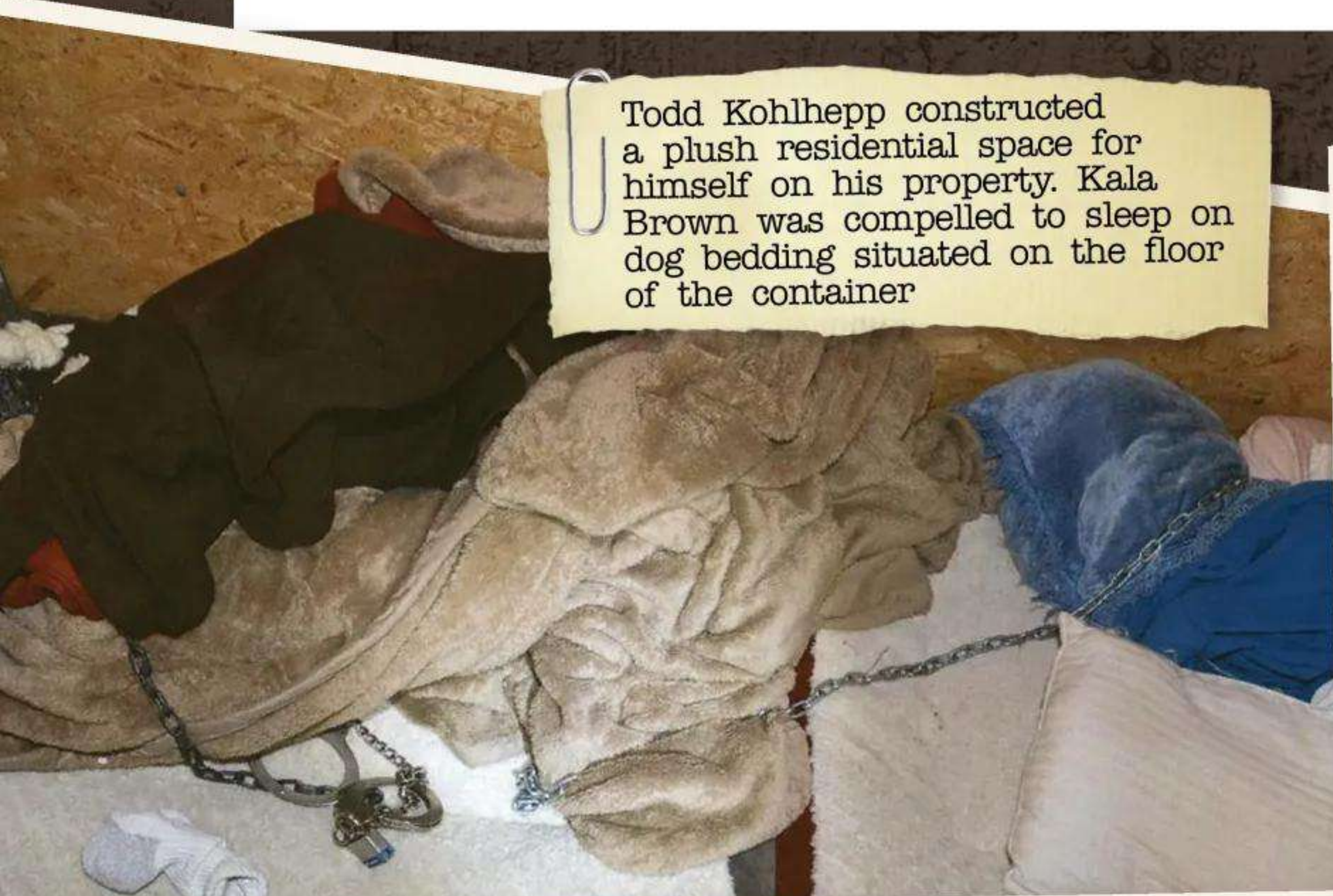
Kohlhepp alleged that he held Meagan captive for about five or six days, providing her with Little Caesar's Pizza, Dr Pepper, a lighter and Newport cigarettes. He claimed to have agreed to transport her to Tennessee with \$4,000, intending to help her find a diner job and start anew.

When asked by Clark what caused the situation to change, Kohlhepp replied that Meagan "wouldn't stop

CHRIS SHERBERT



Todd Kohlhepp constructed a plush residential space for himself on his property. Kala Brown was compelled to sleep on dog bedding situated on the floor of the container



Inside the container, authorities discovered a variety of firearms along with an abundant stockpile of ammunition. A locked gun safe was also located within the space



Law enforcement officers had to breach five heavy-duty locks to reach the confined Kala, who was inside the container, crying out for help. They required the use of industrial-grade power tools



During her captivity, Todd Kohlhepp supplied Kala with crackers for sustenance. In addition, he gave her adult coloring books and an MP3 player. A chilling collection of reading material, mind



burning shit". On the day of her death, he found the storage container she resided in filled with smoke. He accused her of tampering with his ammunition rack and breaking a fan he had provided for her. He likened her behaviour to that of a "caged animal."

In response, he led the young woman out of the storage container and "put a bullet in the back of her head." He used the same Glock 22 that he had used to kill Johnny Coxie and later Charlie Carver.

The Superbikes confession didn't come so easily. Two hours into the interrogation, it would take detective Tom Clark – who had worked on the Superbikes Murders as a younger man – teasing one from Kohlhepp by utilising his knowledge of his former neighbour, gleaned from their prior encounters. He asked Kohlhepp what happened to the motorcycle he used to own.

Kohlhepp confirmed that he had bought a Suzuki motorcycle from Superbike Motorsports, but wasn't able to ride it. He claimed the manager ridiculed him when he attempted to return it. "They stole my bike. They laughed at me," he said.

Then Kohlhepp changed the subject. He expressed a desire to help Sheriff Wright get re-elected – the election that would decide who would oversee the region was only three days away.

"You want to help the sheriff? Just answer me one question... did you do Superbikes?" Clark inquired.

Kohlhepp responded that he would reveal the information at the end of the interview.

“HE LED HER OUTSIDE AND PUT A BULLET IN THE BACK OF HER HEAD”

Clark insisted, "Can I go ahead and tell the sheriff that you're going to tell us about Superbikes and that you did it?"

"I'm not going to admit it right now," Kohlhepp responded, before telling Clark he could relay said information to the sheriff. Upon returning, Clark informed Kohlhepp that the sheriff was taken aback by the news, but had requested that he ask Kohlhepp to describe a detail that only someone at the crime scene would know.

In response, Kohlhepp mentioned that he used a Beretta 92FS to shoot the victims and proceeded to detail the two types of ammunition he had used.

Sheriff Chuck Wright won his re-election.

“HE'S THE KILLER, NOT ME”

Todd Kohlhepp was handed seven consecutive life sentences on seven murder charges. 7th Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnette argued that Kohlhepp deserved the death penalty, and would have pursued it. However, several factors influenced the prosecution team's decision to agree to a plea deal.

Barnette mentioned that the primary reason was that the families didn't want the pain and uncertainty that capital murder trials cause, due to the necessity to litigate and re-litigate cases and the often decades-long wait for a death sentence to be executed.



And so, instead of a trial, which could have taken two or more years to occur, prosecutors reached a plea deal just seven months after Kohlhepp's arrest. Former solicitors in South Carolina noted that this was extremely fast, particularly for a high-profile case with multiple victims.

Lorraine Lucas, mother of Superbike victim Brian Lucas, said that being advised to sit in a courtroom of a death row inmates post-conviction appeal hearing helped her agree to the plea deal. "I just wanted [Kohlhepp] to go away," she said, wearily.

Kala Brown felt the same. "When we discussed the potential sentencing in this case, and at our first meeting with the solicitor, Kala made it clear that she was in agreement with a lifetime no parole sentence," said Alex Stalvey, one of Brown's attorneys. [The] death of another human being gives her no satisfaction," he continued. "She said, 'he's the killer, not me.'"

And so Kohlhepp resides, and will most likely die, behind the fortified walls of Lieber Correctional Institution, a maximum-security state prison in Ridgeville, Dorchester County, South Carolina.

ABOVE Police found weapons and ammunition securely stockpiled around Kohlhepps property, in the container that Kala was held in as well as a separate apartment that Kohlhepp had built for himself



ABOVE A remorseless Todd Kohlhepp is led into court for sentencing

Kohlhepp has repeatedly told authorities that there are more victims, echoing the claim relayed by his mother that, "You do not have enough fingers."

After confessing to having committed another murder in Arizona – no victim name, no revealed location – on 18 November 2016, the Tempe Police Department initiated an investigation into unsolved homicides that spanned the previous three decades. On 25 November, Greer, South Carolina, law enforcement officials named Kohlhepp a person of interest in an unresolved 2003 bank heist and triple homicide at the local Blue Ridge Savings Bank. No conclusive evidence tied Kohlhepp to these killings, and he has consistently denied any involvement. And yet, in a letter to the Spartanburg Herald-Journal in December 2017, Kohlhepp claimed that there were still victims to be found.

In 2018, Kohlhepp spoke of two more victims buried near Interstate 26 in Spartanburg County. Sheriff Chuck Wright reportedly transported Kohlhepp back to the county in the hope he might guide them to the alleged burial site. Wright said at the time, "We're strategising to

ascertain where and what actions to undertake. We've been in talks with him. We have no intention of keeping this concealed. Our next step is to conduct a search."

"I believe when he says he killed two other people in South Carolina," says former FBI agent John Douglas, who in 2019 collaborated with investigative journalist Maria Awes on the excellent ID channel documentary, *Serial Killer: Devil Unchained*. "He was so specific about how he went about killing them and how he cleaned up the area... I have this expression: 'To understand the artist, you must look at the artwork.' Behaviour reflects personality. He was just so consistent and specific."

Douglas describes Kohlhepp as unlike any serial killer he's previously come across in his professional life. The Florida native transitioned from being a mass murderer to a serial killer, a pattern that Douglas only notes in another criminal: Dennis Rader, aka BTK. And yet Rader's crimes, driven by sex and domination, were different from Kohlhepp's. His were driven by retribution.

"If [Kohlhepp] perceived an injustice towards him, he would seek vengeance. His patience was remarkable – he could bide his time for months – but eventually, he would retaliate. He would exact his revenge. He truly was a different type of predator."

At the time of writing, no more crimes have been attributed to Kohlhepp. Those Facebook messages sent from Carver's account, during his disappearance? They were never definitively linked to Kohlhepp, but presumably he posted them. Todd Kohlhepp had some strange behaviours online. In the aftermath of his arrest, Spartanburg County authorities discovered a series of product reviews on Amazon.

These reviews were for various items, such as padlocks, shovels, tasers, and gun accessories, and were written by a user identified as 'me'. One review for a padlock read, "solid locks.. have 5 on a shipping container.. wont stop them.. but sure will slow them down til they are too old to care."


Another, for a folding shovel, suggested using it to "hide the bodies" when "you left the full size shovel at home.... does not come with a midget, which would have been nice."

The 'wish list' page for this user was listed as Todd Kohlhepp, meaning that, as the media scrambled for a moniker to call him by, Todd Kohlhepp would come to be known to many as The Amazon Killer.

To his victims, however, he was just a bastard.

SILVER FOX SERIAL KILLER





**AGED 58, BRUCE McARTHUR BEGAN TARGETING
VULNERABLE MEN FROM TORONTO'S GAY
VILLAGE, LURING THEM INTO DEADLY SITUATIONS
USING THE SAME AFFABLE FACADE THAT HE
MANIPULATED THE POLICE WITH**

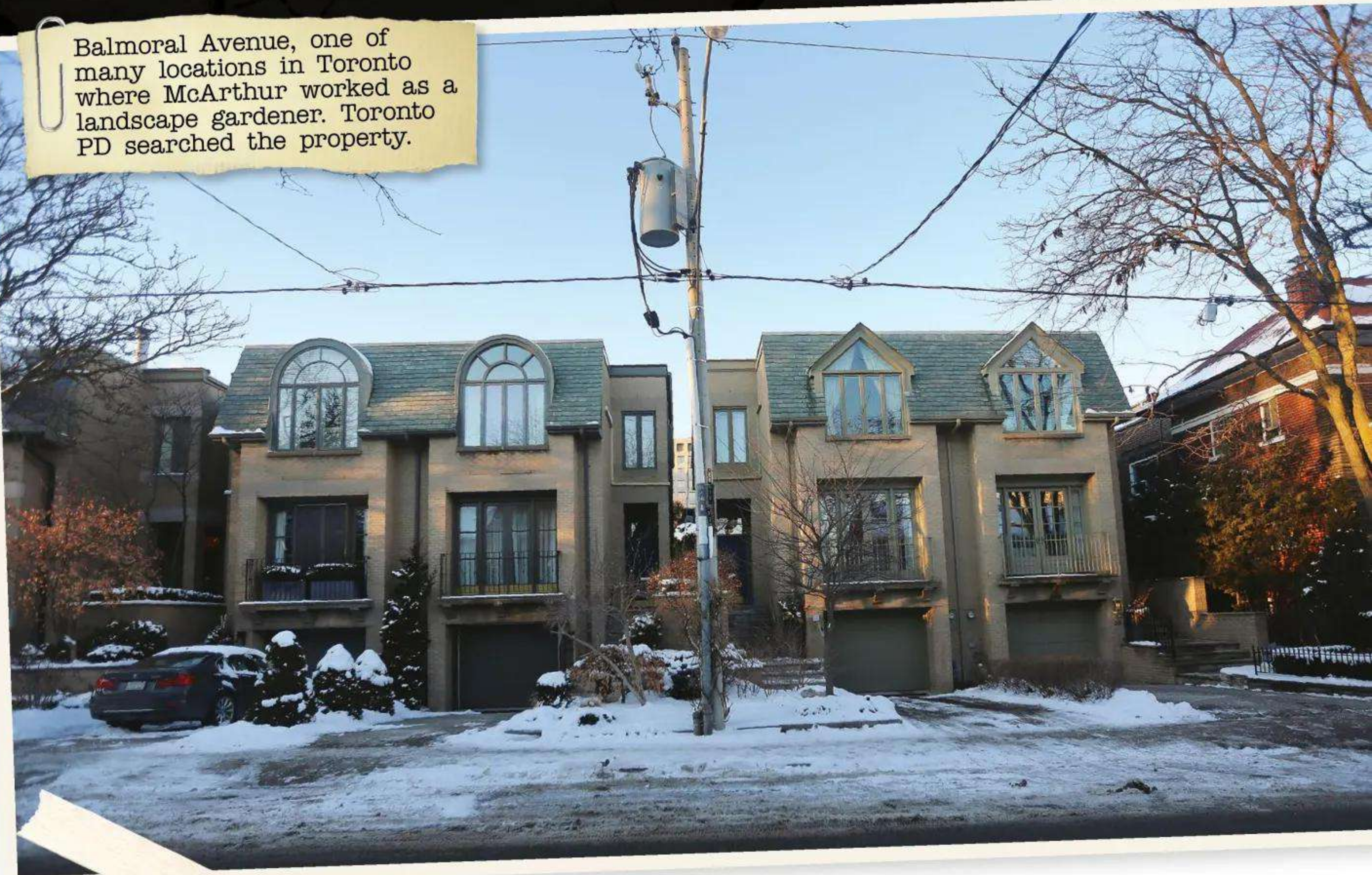
WORDS MARTYN CONTERIO

A blow to the back of the head. Then another. Then another. The man brandishing the metal pipe meant business. In an act of desperate self-defence against an attack from out of nowhere, an assault unfolding in his own home, Mark Henderson raised his arms to protect his face – two fingers were broken in the process. On the verge of unconsciousness, Henderson somehow managed to rally, to find a reserve of strength. He rushed to the phone and frantically dialled 911. His attacker had not expected this. He had not expected a fightback. But that's sure as hell what he got.

The middle-aged, silver-haired attacker was Bruce McArthur. He begged Henderson not to call the police. Henderson rightly ignored the strange request as the assailant ran around in a blind panic attempting to find the phone socket so he could tear the line from the wall. But he failed in this wild endeavour, as the wire's length ran in a convoluted tangle. Defeated, he fled the scene, leaving his victim dazed and confused. The entire episode unfolded in just five minutes. McArthur had parked his car on Church Street at 12.34 p.m. – Henderson rang 911 at 12.39 p.m.

Graduating from fantasist to serial murderer is a slow process. It can take decades. In McArthur's case, it was very slow, as he's not known to have killed before his late 50s. It was likely his intention to murder Mark Henderson that day, but his plan went badly off script. On 31 October 2001, the burly landscape gardener, who had just turned 50 on 8 October, approached his intended victim out of the blue. Henderson was unlocking the main door to his apartment block residence. McArthur, a familiar face around the Gay Village, asked Henderson what he was doing for Halloween, as that night of the year is a big deal in Toronto's bustling gay community, where a huge party is organised and people

Balmoral Avenue, one of many locations in Toronto where McArthur worked as a landscape gardener. Toronto PD searched the property.



dress up for the occasion. Henderson invited McArthur to see the costume he'd prepared. Then came the real horror.

Upon leaving Henderson's apartment, McArthur did something unexpected. He proceeded to the nearest police station, confessed to his crime, though with the caveat that things went blurry, he spaced out, he wasn't in control of his actions. Assessed by a court-appointed shrink, they noted he took anti-seizure medication for epilepsy and antidepressants for depression, but none of it accounted for the barbaric episode. They were mystified. Nothing seemed to fit, no disorder could explain away why he did what he did. The psychiatrist did note a level of anxiety hidden behind a façade of self-effacement, as well as self-image issues, but concluded there was nothing psychopathic underscoring his motives.

In fessing up, pleading guilty to assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm, McArthur avoided a stint in the slammer. He acted as though he was remorseful, made all the right noises, said what happened was an

BELOW Forensic investigators at 53 Mallory Crescent, another residence where McArthur worked. Here, planters containing numerous body parts were discovered.

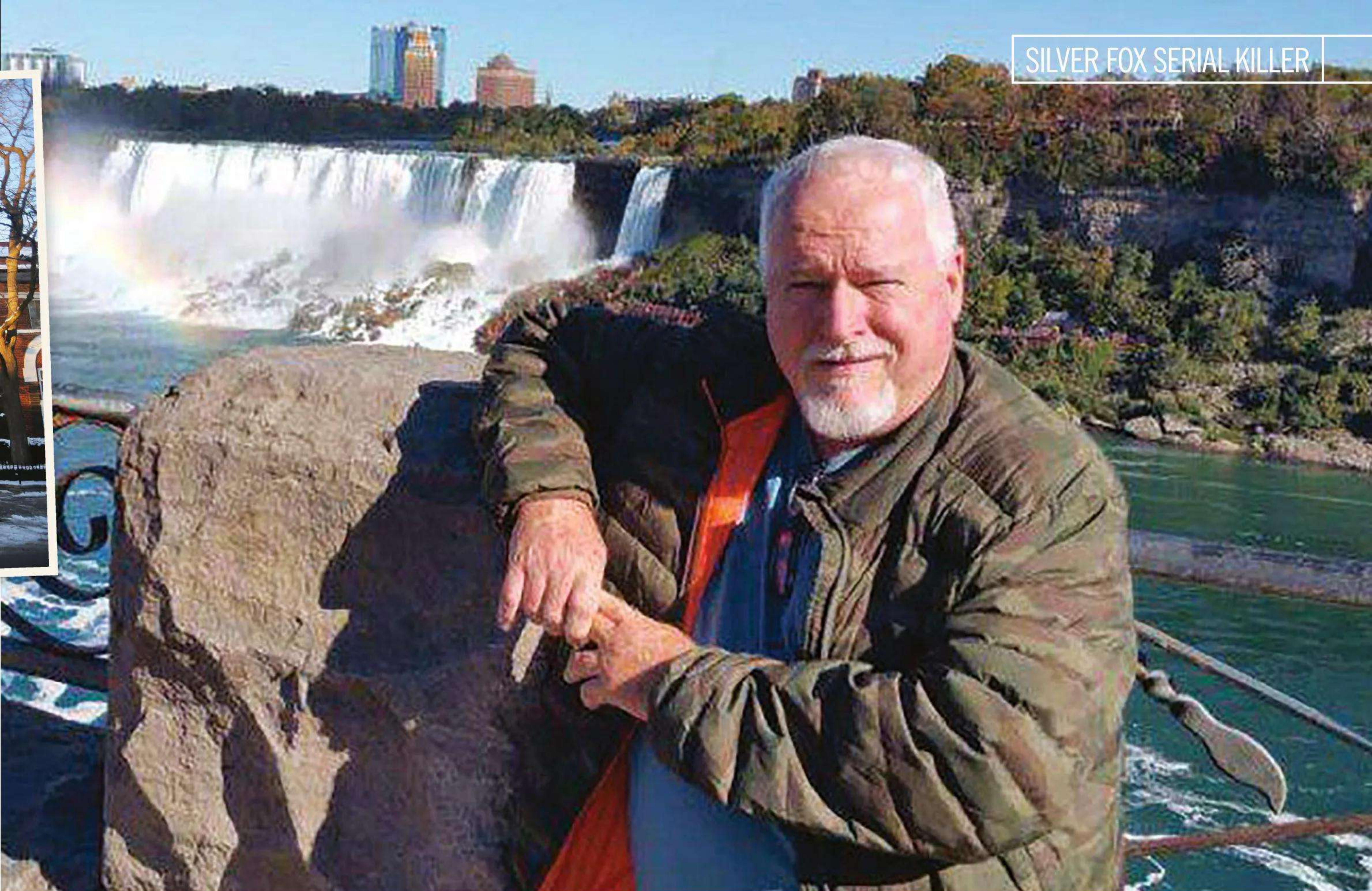


THE DATING APPS

McARTHUR USED SOCIAL MEDIA DATING APPS TO HOOK UP AND INDULGE HIS SEXUAL DOMINATION FANTASIES

Millions of people worldwide engage in and enjoy consensual S&M sex acts and role play, from the innocuous end of the scale to the extreme. McArthur was very active on social media in general, including Facebook, but he trawled dating apps and fetish websites such as Recon, Manjam, Growlr, Grindr, Scruff, and Silver Daddies, all in search of potential victims, exploiting their kinks for his psychopathic pleasure.

McArthur used usernames such as silverfox, silverfoxtoronto and silverfoxx51 to attract men to a certain type of older man. On his Silver Daddies profile, McArthur set out his pseudo-nice-guy stall. It stated he was interested in men aged from 22–55, declared he was shy but romantic at heart and that he worked as a landscape gardener. Other sites, though, revealed his much darker urges. On Scruff, the killer's profile put things more bluntly: 'Enjoy finding a guys [sic] buttons and then pushing them to your limits.'



“ SERIAL KILLERS DEVELOP THEIR MODUS OPERANDI; THEY DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES TO KILL ARE DEPENDENT ON MANY VARIABLES ”

ABOVE McArthur poses for a photograph taken at Niagara Falls, Ontario, which he uploaded to his Facebook account.

aberration, a one-off, an unexplainable event in the life of a man who had only a few years ago come out of the closet and was striving to find happiness. He was ordered by the judge to attend anger management classes, was banned from the Gay Village for one year, was forbidden from using prostitutes or from contacting Mark Henderson under any circumstance, was to perform 100 hours of community service and be placed under a year-long house arrest. He was allowed to leave for work and court-approved appointments only.

But this was not a one-off. He wasn't dissuaded by the fumbled attempt and he learned a valuable lesson: he had to learn to kill discreetly. Serial killers develop their modus operandi over time; they discover that opportunities to kill are dependent on many variables at play, largely through trial and error. McArthur, for whatever reasons, was driven by a need to dominate, humiliate and kill. The Halloween 2001 incident was a beginning, not an ending.

THE MISSING MEN

On 6 September 2010, 40-year-old Skandaraj Navaratnam vanished. The Sri Lankan Tamil refugee was last seen in the Gay Village at a bar known as Tipperz. By 16 September, fearing for his safety, friends reported him missing.

A few days after Christmas 2010, on 29 December, 44-year-old Abdulbasir Faizi called home to say he was out for drinks with work colleagues. He was last seen in a Village bathhouse known as Steamworks. On 30 December the police were contacted by his family (they had no idea he was leading a double life). As the new year dawned, on 4 January 2011, his Nissan Sentra was found abandoned on Moore Avenue, close to Mount Pleasant Cemetery in the affluent Moor Park neighbourhood.

After a lull, McArthur began prowling the streets for targets in October 2012. His third victim was 58-year-old Majeed Kayhan, last seen on 18 October around Alexander and Yonge Street in the Gay Village. Three middle-aged men of Middle Eastern or South Asian appearance had now gone missing in the space of just over two years.

It wasn't immediately apparent there was a serial killer in the Gay Village. The disappearances, though unexplainable, lacked hard evidence of foul play. The men could have gone missing for a litany of other reasons. Shouting “serial killer!” would be, in the minds of detectives at this stage of the investigation, jumping the gun somewhat. But the Toronto Police were concerned enough to create a task force with the codename ‘Project Houston’. It was a play on the line uttered by astronaut Jim Lovell, of the doomed Apollo 13 mission: “Houston, we have a problem.”

In late 2012, a bizarre and disturbing detour into the online world of cannibal role-play led Project Houston to a potential suspect named James Alex Brunton. A police officer named Roland Keller from Berne, Switzerland, who was working a case involving the Slovak serial killer Matej Čurko (who used cannibal and suicide forums to





find victims), suggested Skandaraj Navaratnam may have been kidnapped, murdered and eaten by a cannibal living in Toronto. Electronic forensic analysis revealed a Torontonian was active on a cannibal website named *Zambian Meat* and bragged on the message board he had killed and eaten a human being. But an initially promising lead led to yet another dead end. Brunton was a sick creep, but he was not their guy.

As part of Project Houston, in November 2013, Bruce McArthur was interviewed for a total of 16 minutes by detectives – as a witness only – after a tip came in from the public that he knew Navaratnam, Faizi and Kayhan. Detectives established that McArthur knew the men from email addresses, phone numbers, and dating apps. McArthur denied knowing Faizi outright, but he admitted to hiring Kayhan for odd jobs related to his gardening business. Not his first rodeo with the cops, once more McArthur came across as helpful and believable, the polar opposite of a maniac. He told the officers he knew Navaratnam and they frequented the Black Eagle bar in the Village, but he denied having a sexual relationship with the man. They failed to do a background check on McArthur and did not even bother to prepare questions for what ended up being nothing more than a little chat. They let him talk, explain his view of things, and took it as verbatim (despite what their digging around turned up). A quick search of a police database would have flagged the Halloween 2001 incident and highlighted his violent past.

In April 2014, Project Houston was discontinued. McArthur harboured no such plans to stop. He would continue to kill. On 15 August 2015, Soroush Mahmudi, aged 50, disappeared. In January 2016, Kirushna Kumar Kanagaratnam vanished. He was an especially vulnerable man: a failed asylum-seeker hiding from the government who worked for McArthur on occasion. In mid-April 2016,

a homeless man named Dean Lisowick, who was in his early forties, estranged from his family, struggling with drug addiction and a regular face at shelters around the city, was murdered by McArthur. Being white, he did not fit the victim profile, and like Kanagaratnam, he was never reported missing. A year later, in April 2017, Selim Esen, aged 44, was last seen on Yonge Street.

June 2017 proved a turning point. McArthur murdered 49-year-old Cabbagetown resident Andrew Kinsman a day after Toronto's famous Pride event. His friends reported him missing on 29 June, but they didn't leave it at that. Instead they mounted a fierce publicity campaign that, aided by growing public anger, began to apply real pressure on Toronto Police, who soon reopened the files on the spate of disappearances.

A key breakthrough came during a search of Kinsman's property when an eagle-eyed detective noted something written on a calendar. For the entry dated 26 June 2017, the day Kinsman was last seen alive on Winchester Street, he'd written down a name: Bruce.

AN ARREST IS MADE

On 18 January 2018, at around 13.15 p.m., Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga of Toronto Police made a shock announcement to the press.

"This morning, at approximately 10.25 a.m., police arrested 66-year-old Bruce McArthur of the city of Toronto. He is self-employed as a landscape gardener using the company name *Artistic Design*, and he lives in the Thorncliffe Park area.

"He has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder in relation to Mr Kinsman and Mr Esen. We believe he is responsible for the deaths of Mr Esen and Mr Kinsman, and we believe he is responsible for the deaths of other men who have yet to be identified."

ABOVE Police outside McArthur's apartment, located at 95 Thorncliffe Park Drive, an imposing tower block in the east side of Toronto.



Toronto law enforcement explore a ravine behind 53 Mallory Crescent, searching for evidence of deposited human remains, July 2018.



QUOTES FROM THE CASE

THE MCCARTHUR CASE SHOCKED A NATION, SHATTERED A COMMUNITY AND LED TO CALLS FOR POLICE REFORM

"OBVIOUSLY, THE CITY OF TORONTO HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. I'D CALL IT AN UNPRECEDENTED TYPE OF INVESTIGATION."

Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga,
lead officer on Project Prism

"I WOULD DEFEND THE POLICE IF THEY DID IT RIGHT, BUT THEY JUST KEPT DOING EVERYTHING WRONG."

Mark Henderson, victim of a 2001
Halloween assault by Bruce McArthur

"FOR YEARS, MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN TORONTO BELIEVED THEY WERE BEING TARGETED BY A KILLER. THEY WERE RIGHT."

Michael Cantlon, Crown attorney

"THE ACCUSED EXPLOITED HIS VICTIMS' VULNERABILITIES, WHETHER THEY INVOLVED IMMIGRATION CONCERNS, MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES OR PEOPLE LIVING A SECRETIVE DOUBLE LIFE."

John McMahon, judge at
sentencing hearing

"SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES THAT WERE IN PLACE DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE LGBTQ2S+ COMMUNITY AND MARGINALIZED AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES GENERALLY."

Gloria Epstein, retired judge,
speaking at the press conference
held for her four-volume report
into the crimes of Bruce McArthur



“ HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH TWO COUNTS OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN RELATION TO MR KINSMAN AND MR ESEN ”

ABOVE Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga leaves the court house at 361 University Avenue after Bruce McArthur pleaded guilty to eight murders.

The press and the community had many questions, the first one being who is Bruce McArthur? Journalists scoured online sources for information, while some who knew McArthur, as a friend, colleague or employee, were dumbfounded. One man, Matt Mackinnon, owner of DragonFly Water Features, who subcontracted work to McArthur, was gobsmacked. He told the *National Post*, “I didn’t take [the first allegations] seriously, because things get blown out of proportion. Next thing you know, they’re pulling parts out of my fucking customers’ properties.”

So, who was Bruce McArthur? Like almost every serial killer, he was a nobody who would become notorious. He grew up in rural Ontario and for all intents and purposes led the same kind of life billions of others do. He married, raised two kids, worked various jobs and was active in his local church. In the 1990s, however, he began having affairs with men and drummed up the courage to tell his wife and children the truth. Living his life as an openly gay man did not, however, bring McArthur contentment and happiness. Whatever was missing, it could only be filled by murder.

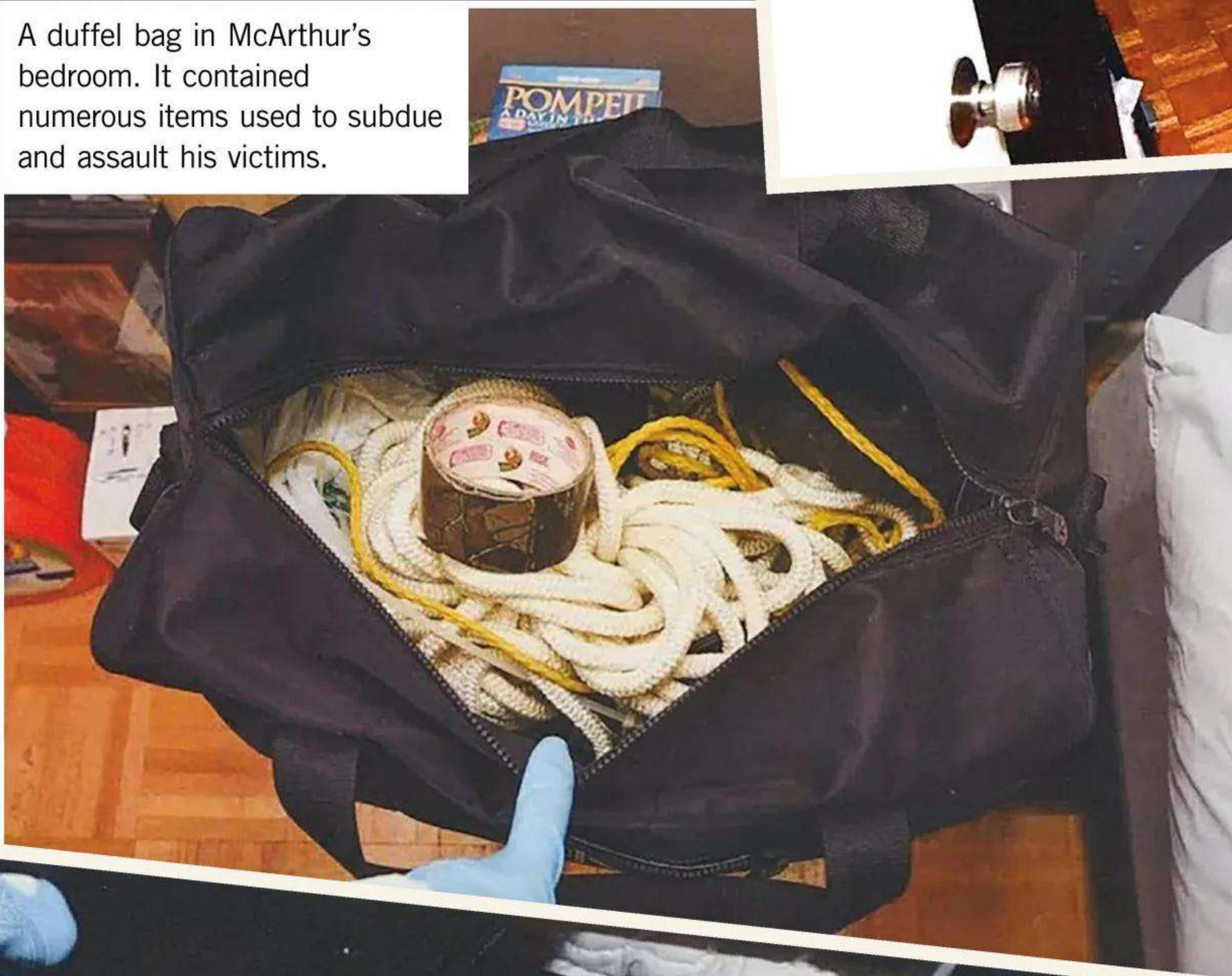
Diving deeper into the disturbing mind of McArthur, detectives learned how the killer manipulated a mutual interest in sadomasochism into the perfect lure. Under the guise of testing sexual boundaries, exploring the terrain and sensations between pleasure and pain, McArthur handcuffed, hooded and drugged his victims, and when they lost consciousness he strangled them. Post-mortem, he would pose the naked bodies for photographs, sometimes in a fur coat. He took souvenirs, shaved the heads of the dead, kept the hair and stored away other personal items owned by his victims. Shockingly, when Toronto Police called at the killer’s apartment, he was caught red-handed.



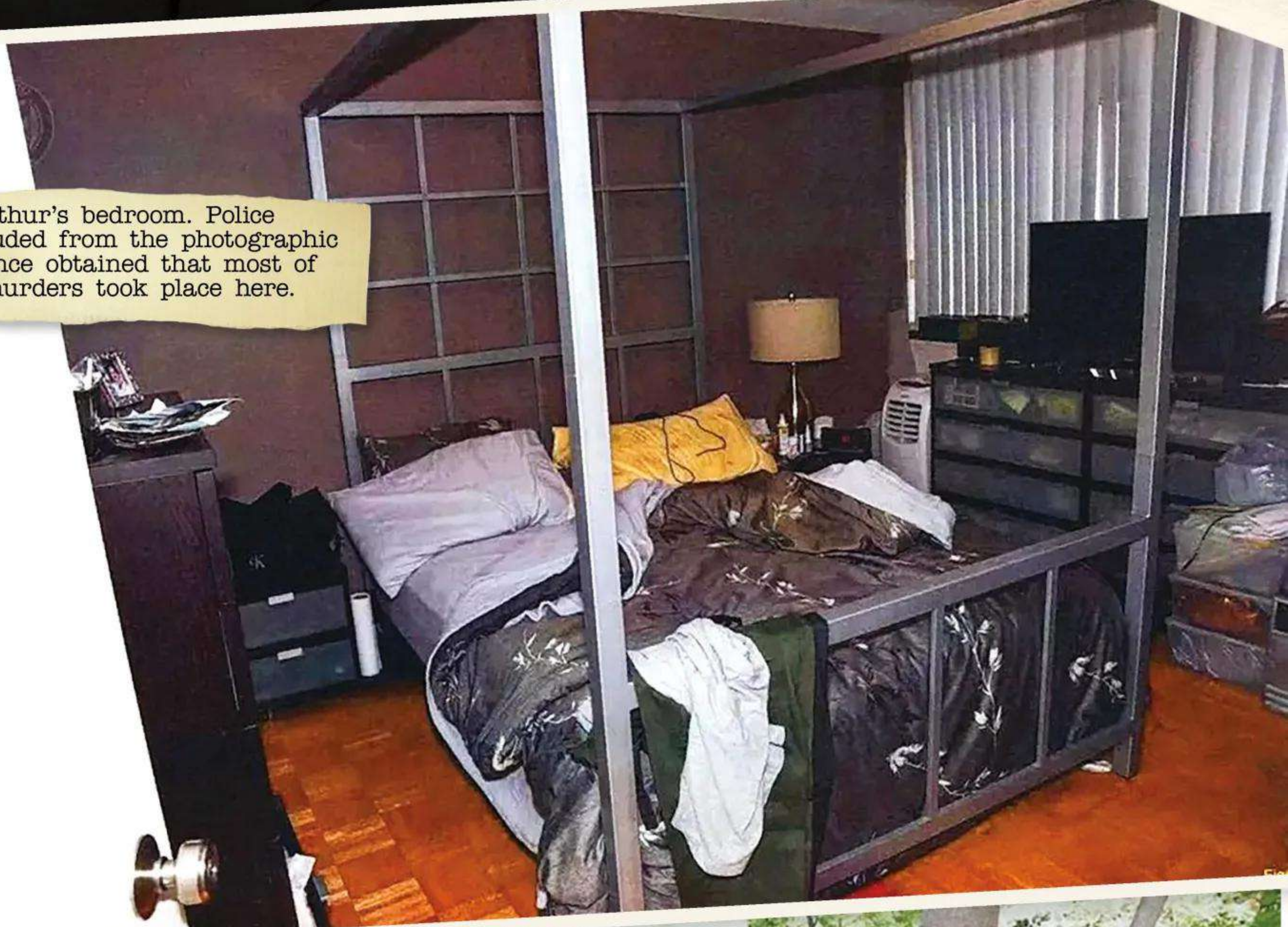
EVIDENCE AGAINST MCARTHUR

ONCE TORONTO POLICE FINALLY NAILED THEIR SUSPECT, A WEALTH OF FORENSIC AND ONLINE EVIDENCE EMERGED AND A MACABRE NARRATIVE WAS REVEALED

A duffel bag in McArthur's bedroom. It contained numerous items used to subdue and assault his victims.



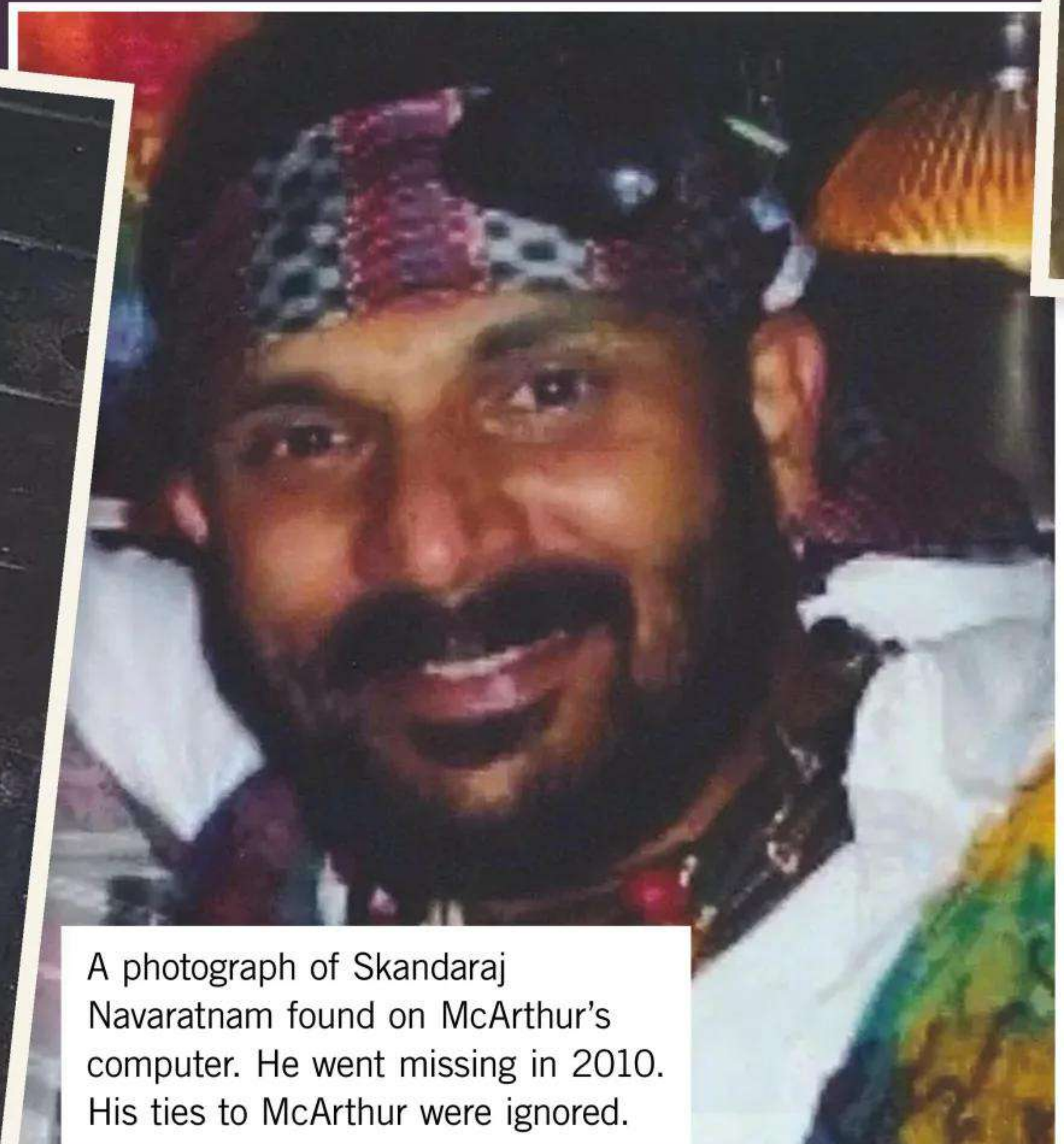
McArthur's bedroom. Police concluded from the photographic evidence obtained that most of the murders took place here.



The ravine at the back of 53 Mallory Crescent. The remains of Majeed Kayhan were found here.

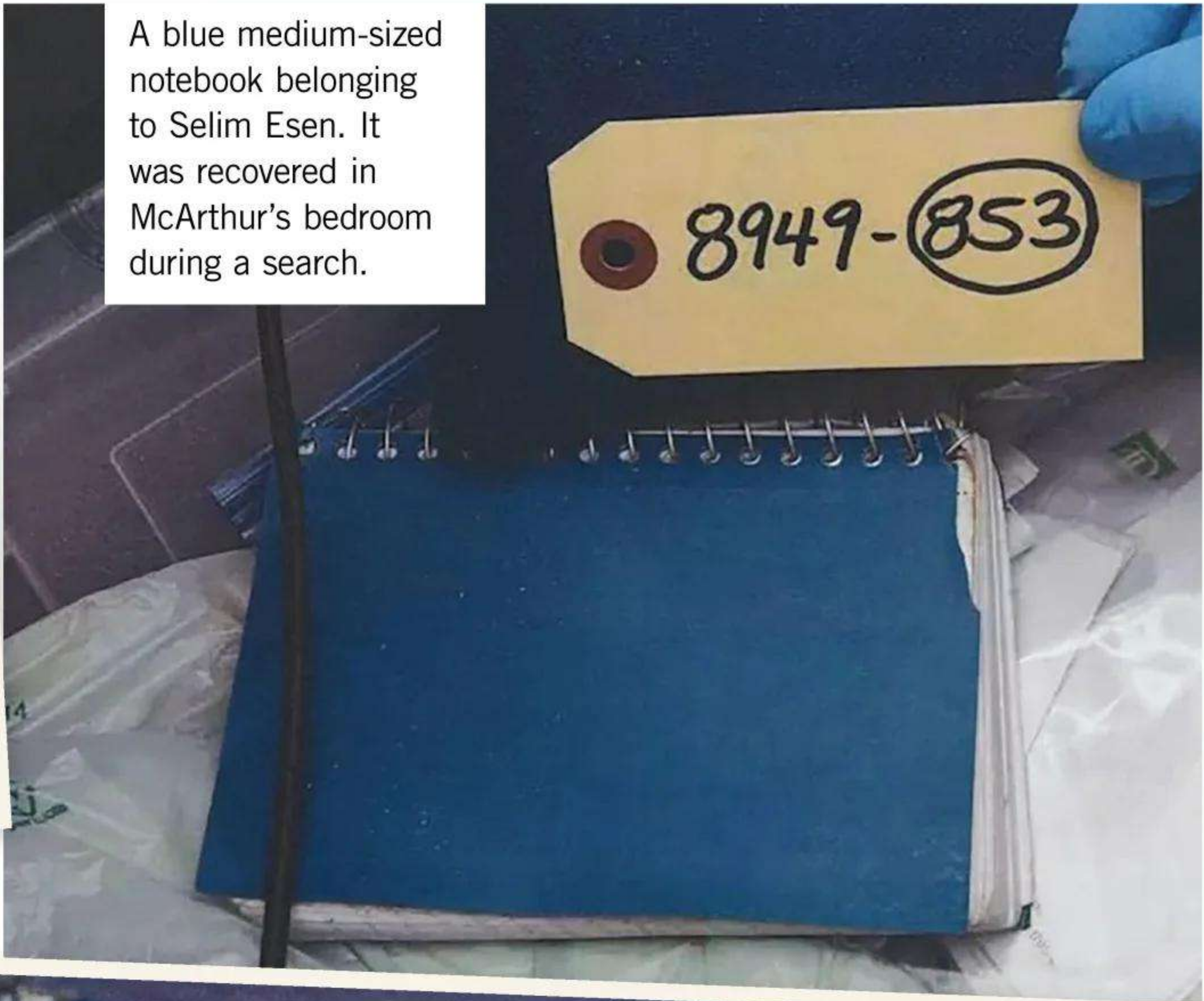


A fur coat owned by McArthur. He would pose dead bodies in this garment, or atop of it, for photos.

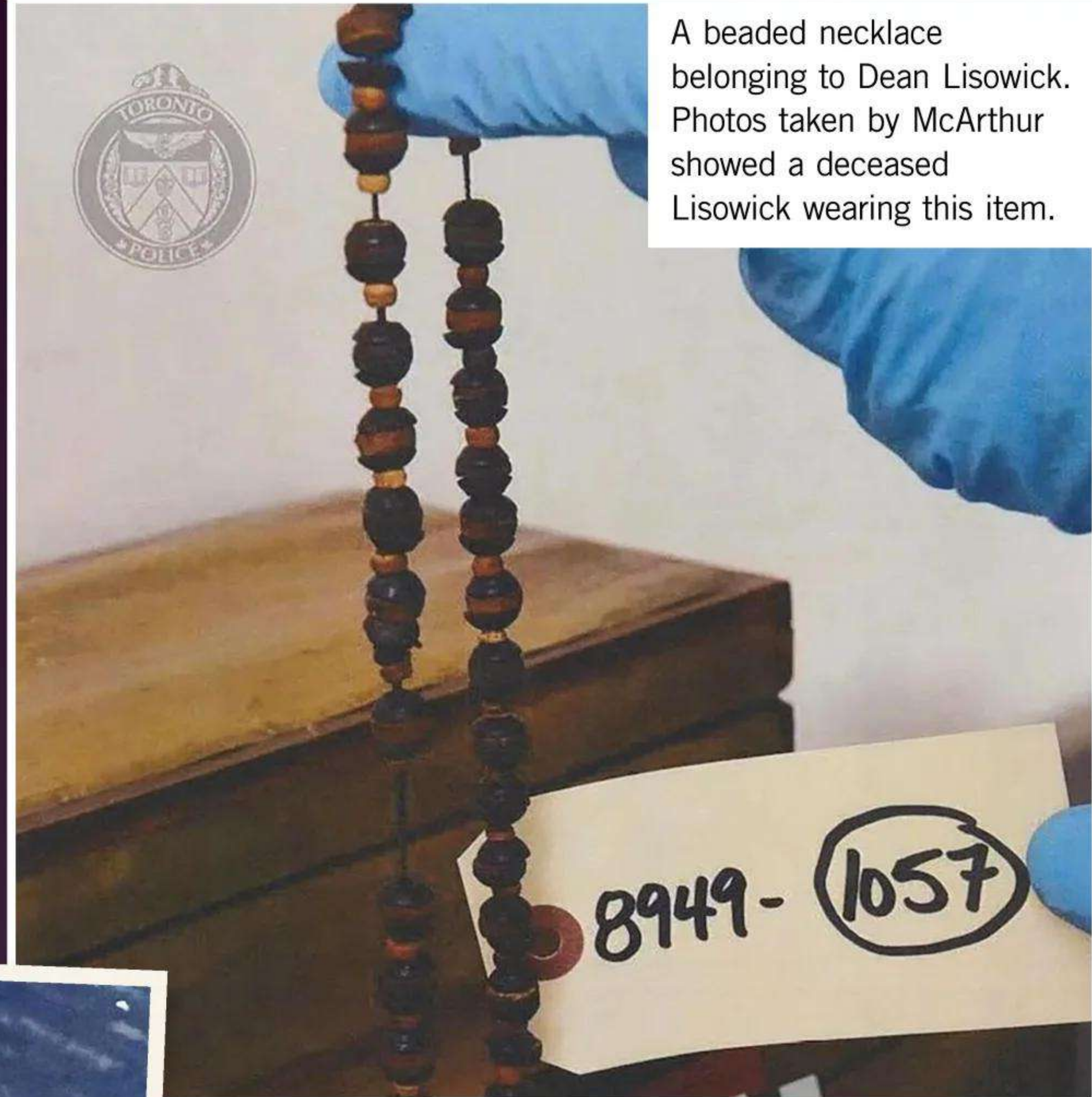


A photograph of Skandaraj Navaratnam found on McArthur's computer. He went missing in 2010. His ties to McArthur were ignored.

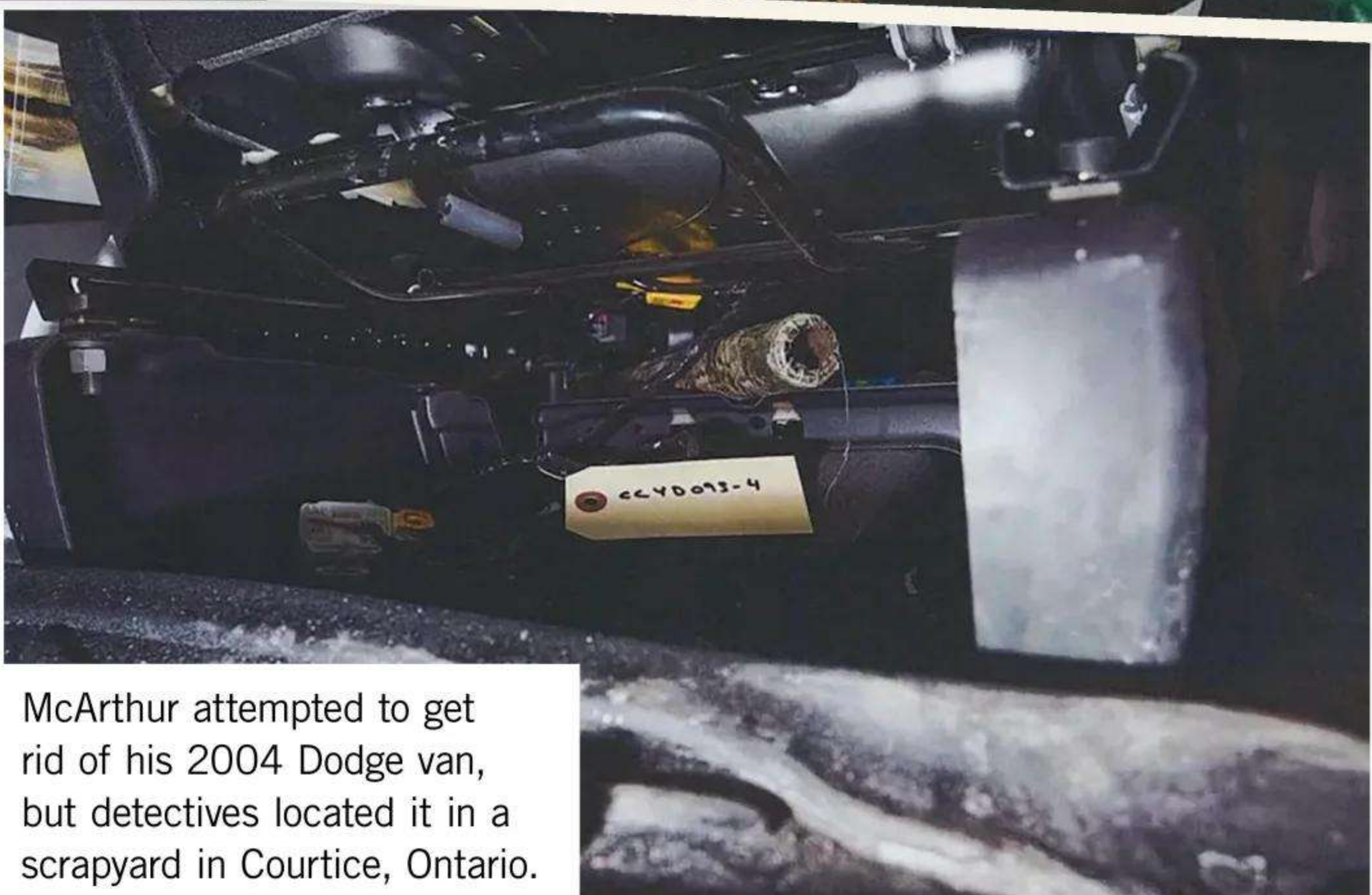
A blue medium-sized notebook belonging to Selim Esen. It was recovered in McArthur's bedroom during a search.



A beaded necklace belonging to Dean Lisowick. Photos taken by McArthur showed a deceased Lisowick wearing this item.



A planter used by McArthur at 53 Mallory Crescent, where the remains of most of his victims were found.














McArthur attempted to get rid of his 2004 Dodge van, but detectives located it in a scrapyard in Courtice, Ontario.



A bar wrapped with tape found in McArthur's Dodge. He used it to tighten a rope around a person's neck.

ELEVEN (11) MISSING PERSONS

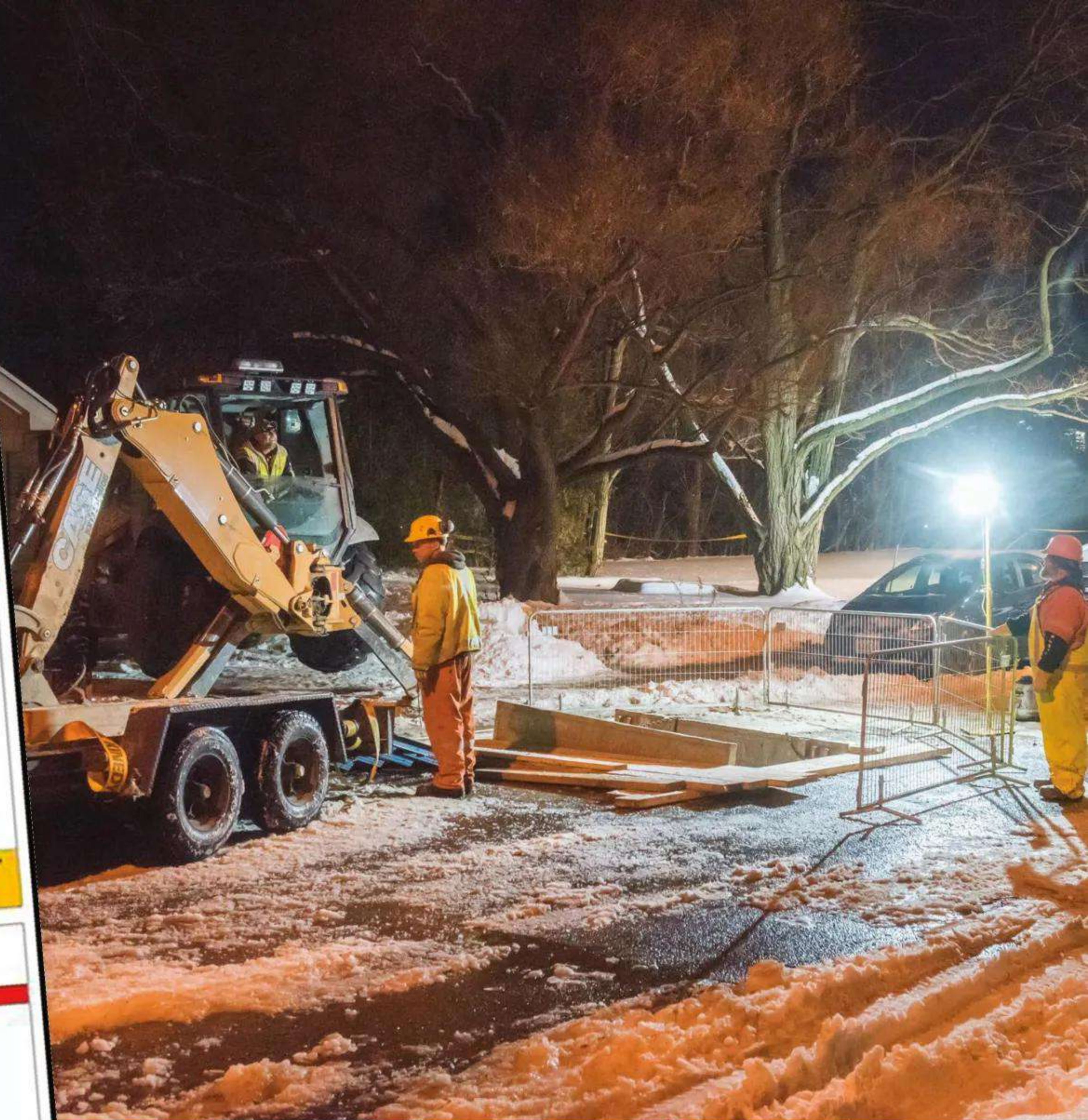
<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Raymond BRUNETT, 48 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 3:00pm in the Bathurst Street and Dundas Street West area. The victim is known to frequent the Warden Street East & Church Street area.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Graeme HILL 34 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen at 5:00am on Monday, July 10, 2017 in the Eglinton and Bayview area. The victim is 6'1" tall and 145 pounds with an athletic build, short brown hair, wears glasses and was last seen in a black quilt shirt, black pants and possibly a brown leather baseball cap.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>
<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Chi Tam LY, 45 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on Tuesday, July 4, 2017 at 10:00am in the area of Royal York Road & The Queensway. The victim is 5'8" tall, thin build, brown eyes, short black hair & last seen wearing a plaid shirt, black pants & grey shoes.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Andrew KINSMAN, 49 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on June 26, 2017 Near Parliament and Winchester Streets.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>
<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Jeffrey HOWARD, 55 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on June 2nd, 2017, at 7:10 am in the Victoria Street and Shuter Street area. The victim is 5'10" tall, 250 lbs, clean-shaven & last seen wearing a dark-grey sweater with thick horizontal stripes, dark pants, light-coloured running shoes & carrying a blue duffel bag.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Daniel PRESSELLO, 53 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on Monday, June 5th, 2017 in the George Street & Gerrard Street East area. The victim is described as having a shaved head, brown eyes, 5'9" tall and a slim build.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>
<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Zhu Jian "Frank" WANG, 25 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen 3:00am on May 19, 2017 at Yonge and Gerrard.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Selim ESEN, 43 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen on Monday, April 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bloor Street East and Ted Rogers Way area. The victim is described as 5'10", 165 lbs. with medium-length dark-brown hair, beard. He is known to frequent the areas of Church & Wellesley Streets and the Kensington Market.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>
<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Majeed "Hamid" KAYHAN, 58 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen October 14, 2012. The victim frequented the area of Church & Wellesley.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Abdulbasir "Basir" FAIZI, 42 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen in the Church & Wellesley area. Reported missing December 10, 2010, the victim's vehicle was recovered on Moore Avenue in Toronto.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>
	<p>TORONTO POLICE SERVICE</p> <p>MISSING PERSON</p> <p>Skanda NAVARATNAM, 40 yrs</p>  <p>Last seen September 4, 2010 in the Church & Wellesley area leaving a bar called "Zippers" with an unknown male.</p> <p>Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the tip line at 416-808-5111 or anonymously at 416-222-TIPS or via the internet at www.222tips.com or text TIPS and your message to 43989 (214637).</p> <p>FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</p>

Toronto Police issued missing posters. Five of these men would later be confirmed as victims of Bruce McArthur.

Detectives interrupted him in the process of dispatching another victim, a man named "John" who'd hooked up with McArthur on Grindr. The knock on the door saved his life, Toronto Police acting when they did because they feared the man's life was in mortal danger.

McArthur's reign of terror was finally over. His apartment proved to be a treasure trove of evidence, including a duffel bag containing surgical gloves, rope, zip ties, duct tape and syringes. Police also removed ten USB drives filled with incriminating photos, news items related to the missing men (McArthur clearly kept tabs on media reports), a necklace belonging to Dean Lisowick, Esen's notebook and a bracelet owned by Navaratnam. In a hidden compartment of his 2004 Dodge van, the fur coat seen in numerous photos was discovered. In total, the forensics team acquired 1,800 pieces of evidence from McArthur's apartment. Now Toronto Police had to conduct the grim business of locating the remains of the victims.

The conduct of the Toronto Police was severely scrutinised in the wake of McArthur's arrest, especially when it became known that they had missed a number of



warning signs that, had they been properly investigated, may have led to McArthur being stopped a lot sooner. Accusations of homophobia and racism were hurled at the police by an enraged community, and not without substance. After all, the case only broke when middle-class white man Andrew Kinsman disappeared. Yet while on the surface it certainly looked like another incident where the police rallied and the press became interested because a photogenic white person had vanished. But what really broke the case was compelling evidence.

With McArthur clapped in irons, Toronto Police were given search warrants on 21 January 2018 for properties across Toronto and further afield in the state of Ontario, all places associated with McArthur. One property in particular, 53 Mallory Crescent, where he was allowed to store tools – and house-sat for the owners whenever they were away – emerged as a focal point.

CATCHING A KILLER

Toronto Police missed another opportunity to catch McArthur on 20 June 2016; at least an opportunity to delve deeper into the man's background and life. This episode occurred when an acquaintance of McArthur's met him for sex in his kitted-out van. What was meant to be rough sex soon became too rough. Managing to fight off McArthur, the man called 911.

It was almost a repeat of the 2001 incident. McArthur turned himself in, was arrested and interviewed. Once more, he came across as believable, describing what occurred as a lover's tiff, nothing but a domestic. Upon learning about this later, a furore in the press and community rightly erupted. It led to charges of negligence and insubordination being filed against one interviewer still in Toronto PD (Detective Gaultier). If interviewing detectives had done their background checks, the 2001 Halloween attack and the 2013 interview would have been flagged. But those checks were not undertaken, and neither were basic formalities followed, such as taping the interview and photographing the victim's injuries. Here was a man



ABOVE Forensic officers begin an excavation of the property at Mallory Crescent, in the posh Leaside neighbourhood, 13 February 2018.

with a known propensity for violence, who had ties to the missing, but nothing was done about it.

Project Prism was the descendant of Project Houston. It was headed by Detective Sergeant Michael Richmond and Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga, both from the homicide squad, and it also featured officers from Division 51, which covered the Gay Village. Set up in the wake of Andrew Kinsman's disappearance, it was a concerted effort to reinvestigate the cases of the missing men. Unlike the others, two crucial pieces of evidence were found within 72 hours of Kinsman's disappearance. Along with the calendar on which the name 'Bruce' was scrawled, Detective David Dickinson uncovered street-cam footage of Kinsman getting into a red-coloured 2004 Dodge Caravan. The footage and angle weren't great, but a lead is a lead. Dickinson searched the records for owners of Dodge vans in Toronto. Six thousand possibilities came up. Narrowing the field, there were only five people named Bruce who owned a Dodge van, but only one owning that specific 2004 model. That man was Bruce McArthur.

Between 16 and 17 August, Project Prism obtained judicial orders for Google and the phone and wireless internet company Rogers Communications. They wanted to search IP addresses and phone call logs belonging to Kinsman and McArthur in an attempt to establish further links to make the case even stronger and take it beyond the circumstantial, such as Kinsman and McArthur having dated. Throughout August they received more judicial orders, amounting to 24, taking in such things as bank transactions. Around this time Detective Patrick Platte

followed McArthur into a coffee shop in the Village and obtained McArthur's DNA from a coffee cup.

Into September, McArthur was under heavy surveillance when he made a suspicious move. On 16 September, he sold his Dodge van to Dom's Auto Parts, located in a little town east of Oshawa, Ontario. Toronto Police, who had installed a discreet GPS tracker on the vehicle, brought it in for testing and found spots of dried blood. The circle was closing, but not just yet. More online forensic detecting continued, including a look at user records on a website known as Squirt. In November 2017, DNA results provided the police with a crucial piece of evidence: the blood found in McArthur's van belonged to Andrew Kinsman.

The pace gathered. On 5 December 2017, Project Prism, thanks to a warrant, gained access to McArthur's Thorncliffe Park apartment. There they searched the property and cloned data from his home computer and some external hard drives. The search was interrupted when the GPS tracker on McArthur's car indicated he was returning home, spooking officers, who feared being caught out.

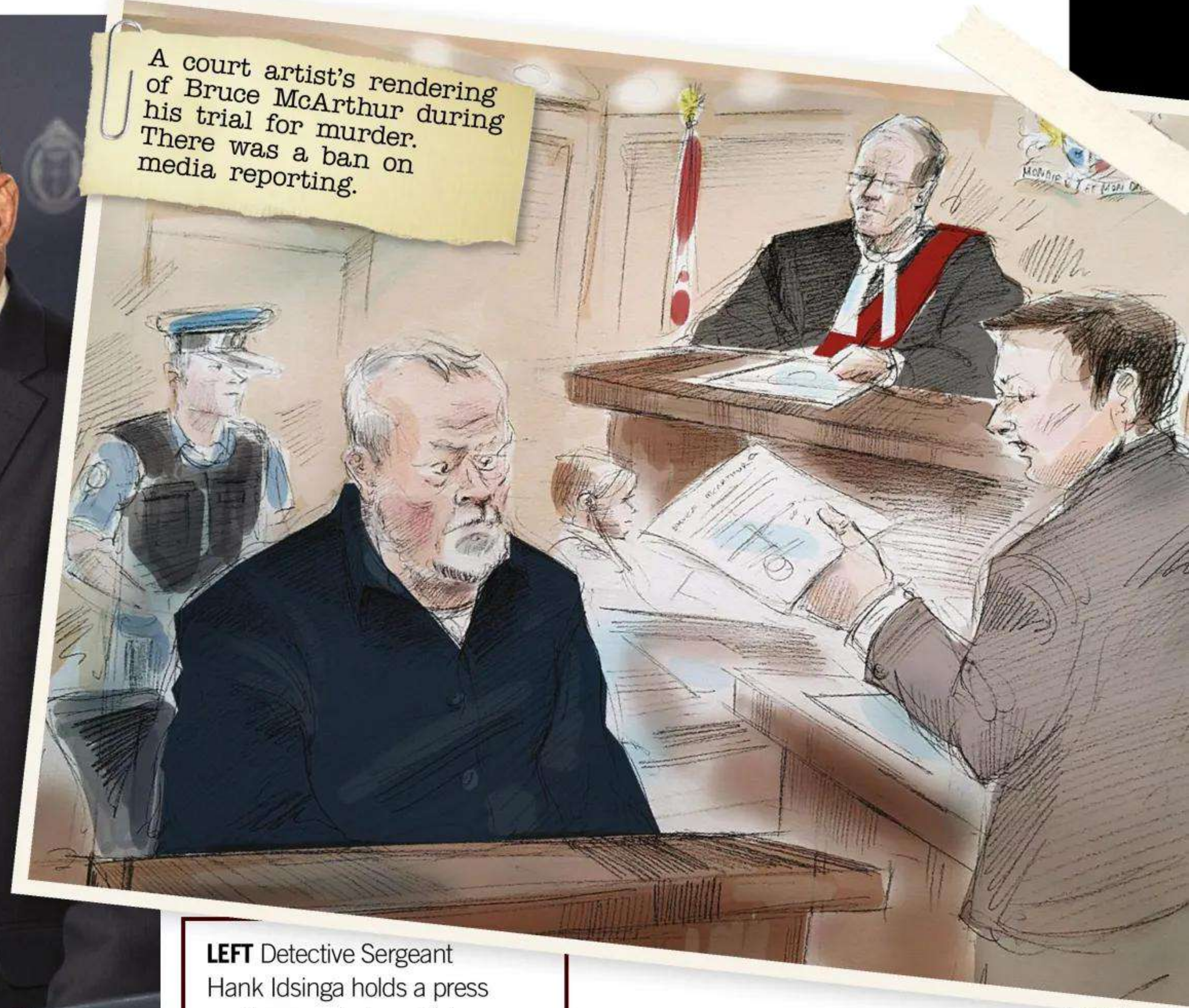
Forensic analysis of the cloned data from the home computer revealed McArthur's ties to the men and their cruel fates. It is also understood McArthur tried to delete many photos, but they were recovered successfully by forensic experts in the lab. The evidence against McArthur was now overwhelming, triggering the move to arrest him.

In October 2018, the serial killer stood trial on eight counts of murder in the first degree. He pleaded guilty during a hearing in January 2019 and received a life sentence. Justice had finally been served for a community that had been terrorised by a ruthless predator who had used casual sex, dating and friendship as secret weapons. His ordinary persona had fooled everybody. On the surface he was a working man trying to live his best life as an out and proud homosexual, one unlucky in love. Behind the mask there lurked a monster driven to kill in order to quench his thirst for power over others.

“DNA RESULTS PROVIDED THE POLICE WITH A CRUCIAL PIECE OF EVIDENCE: THE BLOOD IN MCARTHUR'S VAN BELONGED TO KINSMAN”



LEFT Detective Sergeant Hank Idsinga holds a press conference during which he displays a photo of an unidentified potential victim



A court artist's rendering of Bruce McArthur during his trial for murder. There was a ban on media reporting.



INTERVIEW

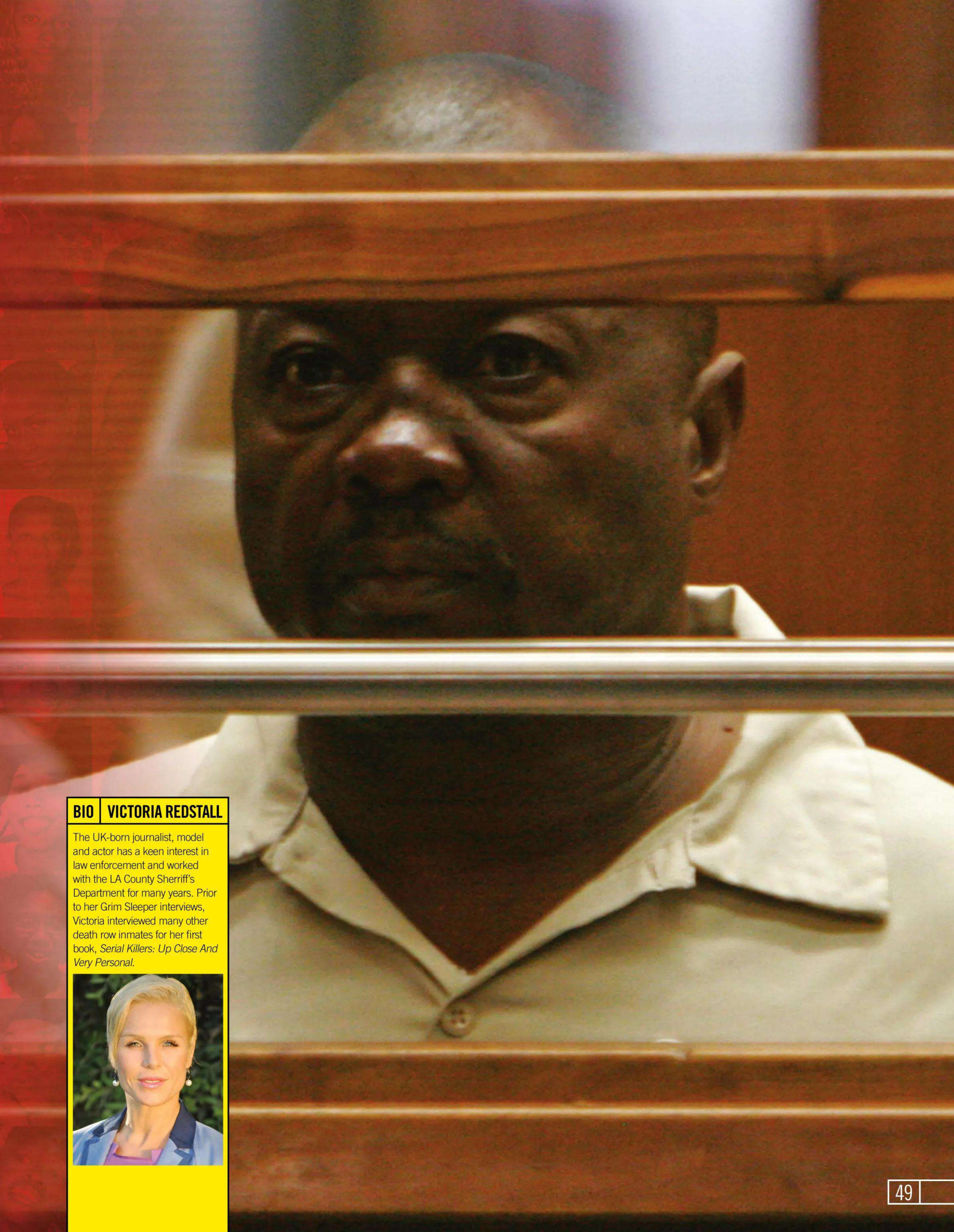
FACE TO FACE WITH THE GRIM SLEEPER

THIS WASN'T THE FIRST SERIAL KILLER VICTORIA HAD MET, BUT THE MAN SUSPECTED OF KILLING DOZENS OF WOMEN OVER 30 YEARS TOOK HER COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE

WORDS BEN BIGGS

In May 2007, the Grim Sleeper apparently awakened. A derelict rifling through the rubbish in a dumpster in South Los Angeles made what must have been a heart-stopping discovery: the bright red fingernails of a shapely hand poking through a black bin bag. Inside was the body of 25-year-old Janecia Peters, who had been shot in the back and strangled to death, before simply being disposed of like so much household waste. DNA linked her murder to at least 11 other unsolved murders, the last of which had been committed over a decade before.

Around the same time this cold case was thawing out, Victoria Redstall was finishing her interviews and trial documentation of long-haul trucker-turned serial killer Wayne Adam Ford. The Grim Sleeper was grabbing headlines, and Redstall wondered whether her open line of communication with Ford could give her an advantage if she investigated the Grim Sleeper case herself. As it happened, Lonnie David Franklin Junior was arrested in July 2010, and so Redstall's investigation changed tack. At the first given opportunity she would try to meet the Grim Sleeper in jail, to see if her impression of the man matched up to the serial killer legend, and to get a story neither the police nor the newspapers could extract from him.



BIO | VICTORIA REDSTALL

The UK-born journalist, model and actor has a keen interest in law enforcement and worked with the LA County Sherriff's Department for many years. Prior to her Grim Sleeper interviews, Victoria interviewed many other death row inmates for her first book, *Serial Killers: Up Close And Very Personal*.





Of the many serial killers currently imprisoned, why did you choose Lonnie David Franklin Jr.?

When I did my first book and documentary on Wayne Adam Ford in 2007, I was still in touch with [Ford] when he got to death row. He would always say, “You know that Grim Sleeper in Los Angeles – he has never been found.” I said, “Well, we could put our heads together and figure out who this guy is... could you help me with this?” He said, “Yes. I bet you that, because he’s been killing black prostitutes over two decades, he’s got to be a black guy. We don’t usually kill out of our own race.” Wayne Ford is a white guy and he never killed anyone who was a different race to himself. He said that was the norm for serial killers, something I didn’t know. He said, “I bet you he’s a black guy, he’s someone who’s liked by the neighbours, and I wouldn’t be surprised if he’s married. He’s had a long marriage, probably never left the neighbourhood that he lives in and has probably got a full-time job.”

So Lonnie Franklin goes to Central Jail Los Angeles, which is only about 20 minutes from where I live. I was waiting for him to be classified. I kept calling the jail (he was arrested in June and classified in September/beginning of October) so that I could be there waiting, in the high power [major crime] line at the first visit available for him.

It sounded like you were chancing it a bit with your first meeting, by telling the guards he was your mechanic and slipping him notes. Were you nervous about even being able to speak to him?

Yes. I was very, very nervous. I didn’t know whether I’d be turned away for whatever reason. On the form, you’ve got to fill out whether you’re a friend, relative or acquaintance, and I’m thinking, “I’m none of those things.” I was stalling at the front desk with the deputy that was there. I said, “I’m uhhhh... kind of an acquaintance. He was a mechanic...” And I encouraged him to go with it. He said, “Was he your mechanic?” I said, “Yeah. Yeah. Let’s write that one down.” It was kind of back and forth with the deputy, because he just wanted to write something down. So I put that down and he put it in there as ‘acquaintance’.

When I went in, I was very nervous because you’re going into an area with the worst of the worst. The main gang members for MS-13, the shot callers for the Mexican Mafia... you’re in an area that’s very isolated and they’re shackled and chained to come down into this area. I was looking at all these people... Lonnie Franklin doesn’t look anything like his picture – his picture looks like a big black guy, a very intimidating man. Out of the guys I saw, there was a white guy, a Hispanic guy, a little scrawny black guy, then a Hispanic guy and another Hispanic guy. I’m thinking, “There’s only one black guy here.” So I went back to the scrawny guy, he looked at me and shook his head. I looked at his hands, and on his wrist it said ‘Lonnie David Franklin’.

So I sat down and mouthed through the glass, because the telephones weren’t working at that moment, “I am for you, it’s okay.” He shook his head, like, ‘No you’ve got the wrong person’. So I said, whispering through the glass, “I’m for you, give me a second.” So I’m then talking to the people who are with the other inmates, “When do they turn the phones on?” So it was rather awkward. I had a piece of paper in my bra that I put on the glass. It said, “I’ve told them you’re my mechanic – go with it.”

I picked up the phone when they started to work and said, “Hi Lonnie! How’s it going? My car’s never going to be the

ABOVE Redstall attends the trial of Wayne Adam Ford in 2006. She kept in touch with the serial killer after he was imprisoned, at which point she decided to investigate the Grim Sleeper

LEFT Redstall interviewed serial killer Wayne Adam Ford, who murdered four women and handed himself over to a Humboldt County sheriff with a severed breast in his pocket



NO REST FOR THE WICKED

FOR A TIME, THE GRIM SLEEPER GOT AWAY WITH SERIAL MURDER IN THE HOTBED OF VICE SOUTH OF THE CITY CENTRE

In the 1980s and 1990s, South Central Los Angeles was a centre for gangster rappers. Crime was at an all-time high, and the LAPD was overwhelmed with gang violence and drug trafficking. So if a black prostitute turned up in a dumpster in Inglewood, the case got flung into the paperwork pile in the hope that no one cared enough to chase its progress up.

By the time Janecia Peters was found in 2007, the crime rate of the rebranded 'South Los Angeles' had receded to similar levels to the 1940s and 1950s. After Lonnie Franklin Jr.'s arrest and during Victoria Redstall's interviews, hundreds of photos were discovered in Franklin Jr.'s home. The high profile of this case meant police began to open cold cases spanning his supposed dormant period, and suddenly the 'Grim Sleeper' moniker seemed less appropriate. Franklin Jr. told Redstall that most of the infamous 180 images were of relatives and friends, photos cropped by the cops. The cops told Redstall that Franklin Jr. was lying to her a lot. It's likely there's truth in what both the police and Franklin Jr. are saying – and that the Grim Sleeper killed many more than he was convicted for.

“ HE SHOOK HIS HEAD, LIKE, ‘NO YOU’VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON’. SO I SAID, WHISPERING THROUGH THE GLASS, ‘I’M FOR YOU...’ ”

same again, I've got a different mechanic now.” And then he said, “Yeah, how's that carburettor?” I said, “Well It's still not the same, but you always did a good job and it was nice of you to do it for free. I heard you were in jail and I thought I'd pop by and visit you... by the way, I actually write books on serial killers and I'm doing one on those wrongly convicted. Somewhere in that spectrum I think you fit in. I'll work with you and I'll come every week, but you've got to promise not to speak to anyone else.” And that is exactly what he did.

Enietra Washington, his only survivor, described him as tidy and geeky. Was that your first impression of him?

He's got a lot of energy. He bounces around a lot with his physical movements, he's always looking behind me at what's going on. He bounced around on the subject too, when I was trying to keep him focused on the subject. I think he lost a lot of weight while in jail and I think I agree with Enietra Washington when she said she found him 'geeky' – but tidy, I wouldn't know.

Do you think that he was just happy to have someone to talk to?

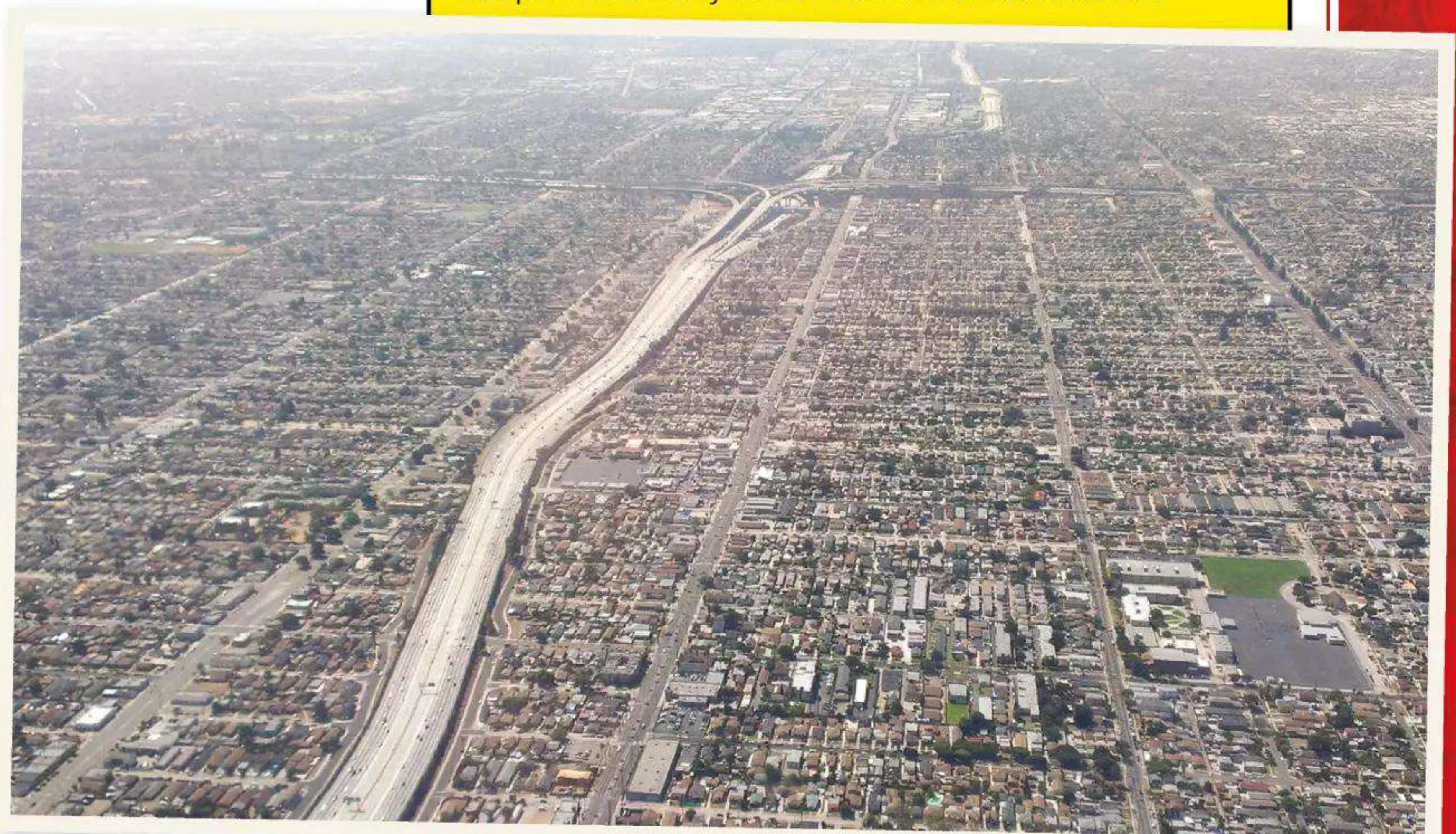
He was very clever, and I think he did lie a little bit because the cops told me he did, because they heard all of our conversations. Part of me thinks he didn't really think I was going to do a blog or documentary on him. I don't know that he really had a thought in his head regarding that. I think he's a little bit of a narcissist... or he can be a lot of a narcissist. I think he thought, “It's fun having this girl here, talking to me, she can write down what she wants. I'm going to fabricate a lot of it and make myself feel good,” by making it look like

he wasn't having sex with prostitutes, that they were women who wanted to have sex with him.

Were there moments when he was intimidating, despite the glass between you? Did you get a glimpse of the Grim Sleeper?

It's funny you say that: I didn't get a glimpse of anything like that, anything intimidating or evil. Because I've seen that with other serial killers, that evil look, I'm always looking for that. He's a jolly old fellow who loves to talk, non-stop

TOP-LEFT The aunt of one of the Grim Sleeper's victims stares at a reward billboard for the killer in South Los Angeles, mere weeks before Lonnie Franklin Jr. was finally arrested





“ SERIAL KILLERS GO FOR PROSTITUTES BECAUSE THEY WANT TO ELIMINATE THAT FROM THE WORLD, BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY DON'T DESERVE AN EXISTENCE ”

talking and didn't let me get a word in. He loves to gossip about all his neighbours, what they're doing and what they're saying, how he wishes they'd shut up – little things like that. I'm sorry to say he was not an intimidating presence. That's probably why his victims weren't afraid of him and got into his car, because he doesn't have that presence of evil.

His neighbour, Ricky Harris, said that to Lonnie Franklin Jr. “all women were ‘strawberries’ – no good”. Did you feel he treated you differently, maybe with contempt, because of your gender?

No. Sadly, I believe that he felt that way about women who had fallen into a life on the streets. I also believe he loves his wife very much, because sometimes he couldn't get hold of her on Valentine's Day and he would call me in a panic, then ask me to call. He cheated on her with prostitutes and maybe people who weren't. If a woman comes across like they are loose then men will disrespect them, but a serial killer takes it to the nth degree and will go as far as to kill them. These women have just fallen on hard times, that's all. They don't deserve to be killed or hurt, but in the mind of a serial killer they should be wiped out – and this is the mind of a serial killer – they should be wiped out because they are a disgrace to women. I have to make clear, this is not my opinion, this is what I have heard from so many of the serial killers that I have met.

They would do so many terrible things [to women] yet they love their girlfriends, their wives. America wants you to think that they go for prostitutes because they're an easy target. That plays a small part, yes, but serial killers also go

ABOVE-LEFT The mother of the Grim Sleeper's last known victim, Janecia Peters, holds a portrait of her daughter as she attends a press conference announcing the arrest of Lonnie David Franklin Jr.

ABOVE-RIGHT The infamous 180 photographs and 160 video stills are displayed at a press conference in December 2010. The LAPD was asking the public to help identify the women in the images

for them because they want to eliminate that from the world, because they feel they don't deserve an existence.

He would sometimes say things like, “Don't write that down because my wife doesn't know that I had that child 15-20 years ago. Now my daughter's 23 with the same name as the daughter that we had together.” So there were times – because I ended up not going to the jail anymore – when I thought what [were the things] that he didn't want me to say. Maybe some of it slipped into the book – he's gotta be angry with me. He does have children out there that have never been mentioned and he's told me about them. One of them is about 45 now... I'm going to have a very pissed-off serial killer on death row!

Why did you feel that you should honour the wishes of a serial killer?

Anybody, whoever they are, if somebody says to me, “Please do not say this,” I feel I should respect their wishes. Now, if it was something to do with a crime – and I want to make this very clear because I've worked with law enforcement for years – if he said, “Victoria, don't tell anyone but I've actually killed more people,” I would go straight to the police and tell them. If it was something serious, I would tell them. But it had nothing to do with the case and that's it.

It must have been pretty exciting for you, when those photos were discovered in his house and the potential body count increased while you were still visiting him.

I don't know if ‘exciting’ is the right word – I was interested to know more. I did tell him this, because he didn't get the

DEATH ROW INMATES

LONNIE FRANKLIN JR. IS JUST ONE NAME IN A SADLY LONG LIST OF DEATH PENALTY CASES IN THE US

3 TIMES AS MANY DEFENDANTS GOT THE DEATH PENALTY FOR KILLING WHITE OVER BLACK VICTIMS IN CALIFORNIA

\$4 BILLION
WHAT THE DEATH PENALTY HAS COST CALIFORNIA SINCE 1978

98 THE NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS IN ONE YEAR PEAKED IN 1999

EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976

1,301
LETHAL INJECTION

158
ELECTROCUTION

11
GAS CHAMBER

3
HANGING

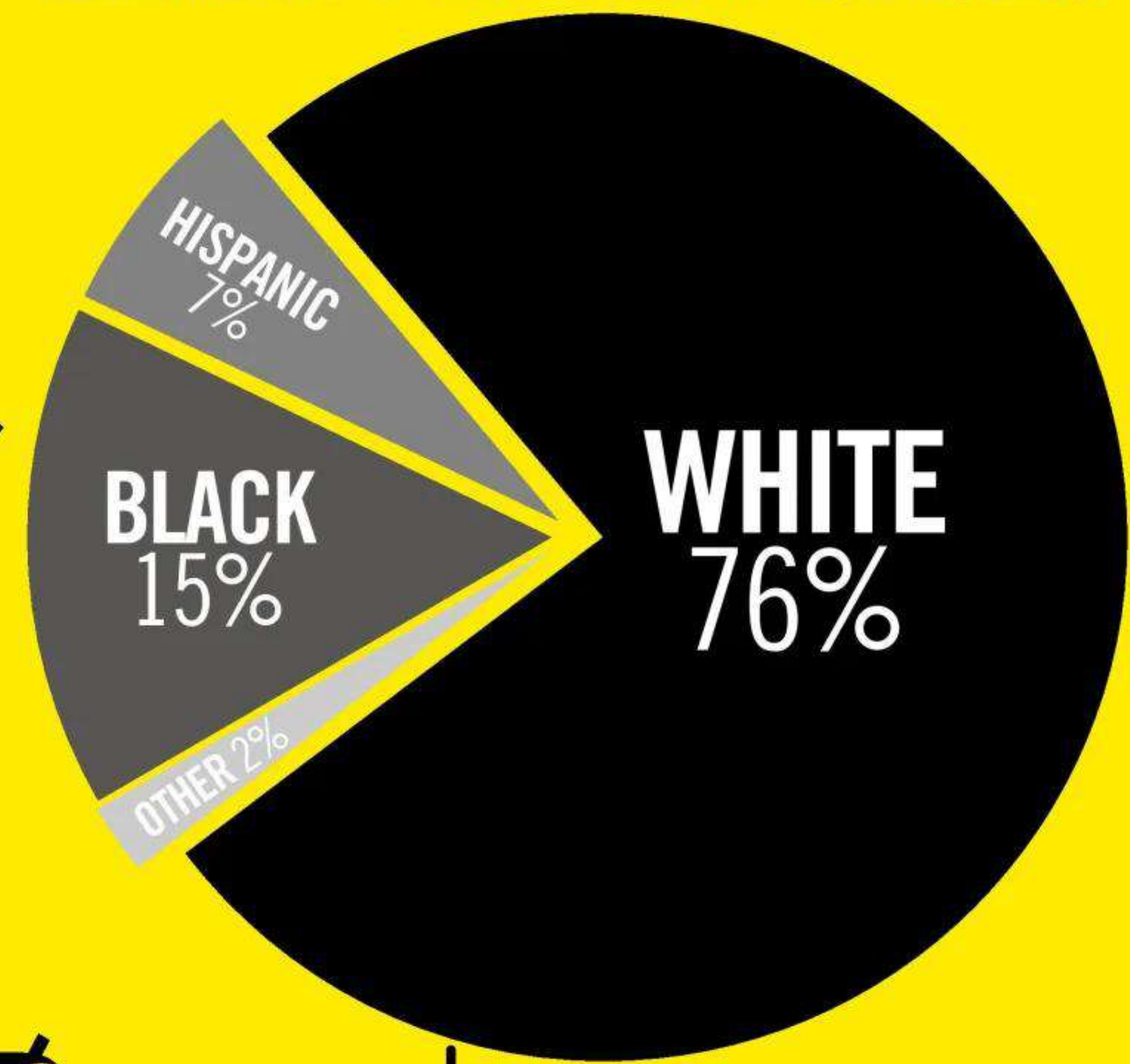
3
FIRING SQUAD

749

CALIFORNIA HAS BY FAR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF DEATH ROW INMATES

1,476
TOTAL US EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976
(at the time of writing)

RACE OF VICTIMS IN DEATH PENALTY CASES



deathpenaltyinfo.org

newspaper or anything. And I did actually show him the paper, and he pointed to certain ones in there and said, "That is my sister-in-law right there, that is my cousin's daughter...". What he said was that the cops had gone into his home, taken all of the pictures of the prostitutes that had gone missing and the ones that were found dead, and then added it to his own photo album. He was in these photographs, but they cut [his image] out of them and used just that picture of the female.

How many visits did you have?

Every week for at least a year. I don't even know how many phone calls. Many, many calls. I used to try to take my recording device but I didn't always have it with me. I feel I get a lot of information from serial killers because I open myself up about my life. I'm never going to tell any of them where I live, but if they ask me a question about my life or about my family, then I will answer them. I will speak to them as normal because it opens them up, or I'll tell them what I thought was a secret of mine, because it opens up people in general.

Quid pro quo.

Exactly. No flirting, nothing like that. Always wear business casual clothes, but try to make them think we're just shooting the shit. Just a chat, then, "See ya Thursday" and a high five through the plexi-glass. Then I would say, "Please, try to remember these things and write them down so you can tell me." So I'd give him little homework assignments to do in the next week.

You're quite emphatic that these serial killers, including Lonnie Franklin Jr., are not your friends. But you are forming a relationship with them of a kind.

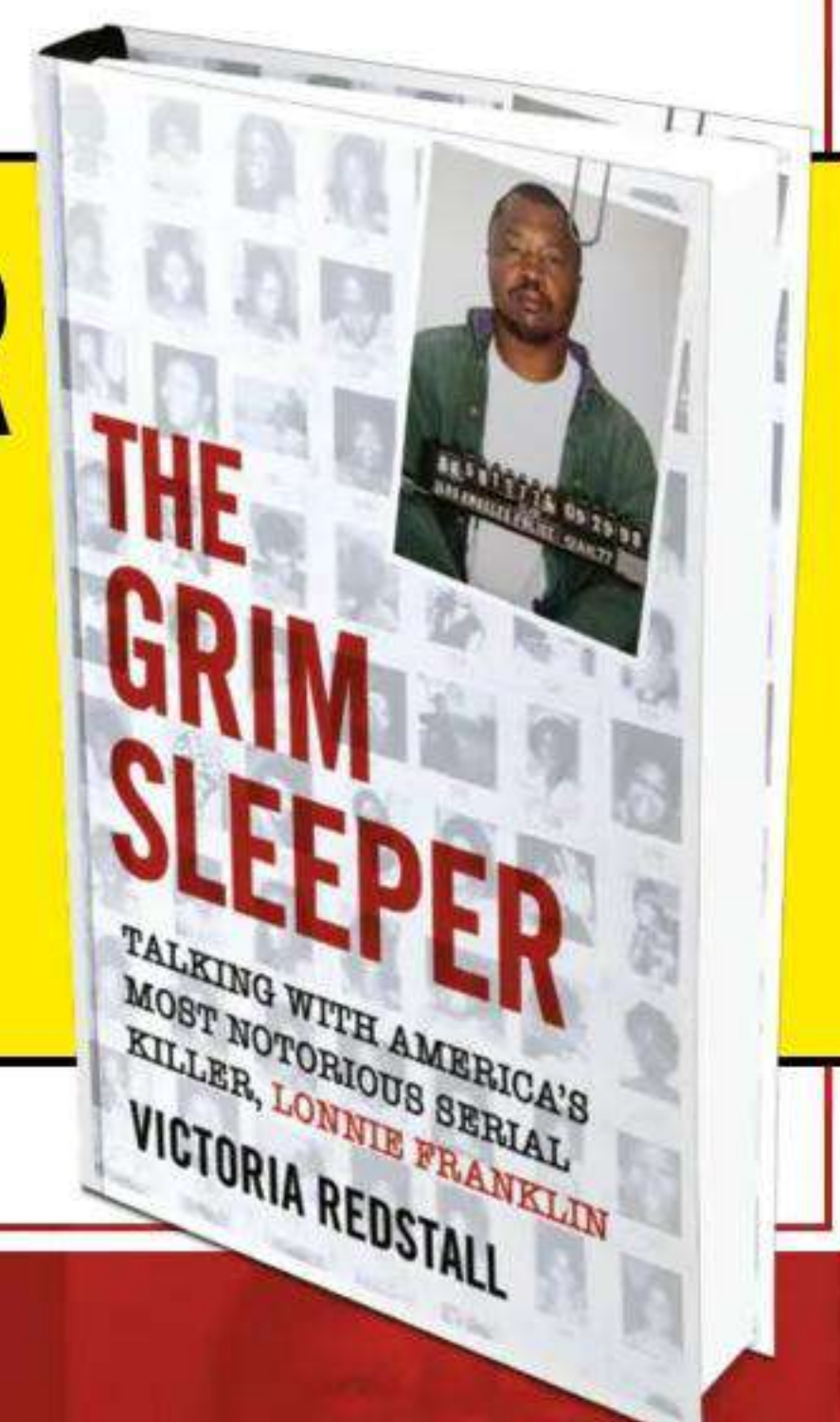
Yes. I'm sure they would consider me their friend. He's not my friend – that's the fake news. But if he considers me his friend he'll open up to me more.

How did his death sentence make you feel?

There are 749 people [at the time of interview, May 2018] currently on death row [in California], and they haven't killed anyone for over eight years there. So they have to get through quite a few hundred before getting to him. If he was killed in three weeks I would think... he's done this to these people. He's robbed families of their child, their sister, their mother and robbed people of their lives, ruined countless people's lives. So for me, I don't care at all – couldn't care less if he was to go next week. My emotions have never been involved, I've never cared for any serial killer. But I will create that bond so there's that banter, some back-and-forth.

GRIM SLEEPER

The Grim Sleeper: Talking With America's Most Notorious Serial Killer, Lonnie Franklin by Victoria Redstall, John Blake Publishing, is available now.



© Getty Images



UNHAPPILY

AFTER

EVER

**HELEN BAILEY VIEWED HER NEW BOYFRIEND AS
HER 'HAPPY ENDING', WHILE HE SAW HER AS
HIS NEXT VICTIM. SADLY, HER FINAL STORY WAS
DESTINED TO END IN TRAGEDY**

WORDS JOANNA ELPHICK

In 1996, Helen Bailey married her boyfriend of six years, John Sinfield, and the pair began an extremely happy life together. While John continued running a successful business, Helen went on to become a highly popular children's author with a string of much-loved teen novels to her name. Their healthy financial situation meant that the couple could enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, and in 2011 they decided to take a break in Barbados to revisit the island where they had married. It was meant to be the holiday of a lifetime, but the getaway ended in tragedy when John was swept out to sea during a day at the beach. Helen looked on helplessly as her husband floundered in the waves. He was eventually brought to shore but was pronounced dead at the hospital when doctors failed to resuscitate him. Utterly devastated, Helen, a widow at 46, felt as though her life was at an end, but just when she thought she couldn't go on, someone who seemed to be a hero entered her life and things appeared to take a turn for the better.

THE 'GORGEOUS GREY-HAIRED WIDOWER'

Helen dealt with her heartbreak the only way she knew how, by writing, and it was through her highly successful blog 'Planet Grief' that she met with other lonely men and women. It was October, eight months after John's death, when Helen started conversing with Ian Stewart online. Just like her, he had lost his partner in a traumatic manner, leaving him emotionally battered and apparently desolate.

The pair became friends and eventually lovers, and despite resistance from Helen's family, they moved in together in August 2013. Those who knew Helen feared that she was still far too vulnerable to make such a dramatic decision. After all, nobody really knew anything about her 'gorgeous grey-haired widower' except that he had lost his wife and had two adult sons. The pair sold their respective homes and bought

BOTTOM LEFT The second cesspit, where Helen and Boris had been dumped, had originally been a well that dated back to the late 1890s

BOTTOM RIGHT A second septic tank was eventually located in the garage. Its entrance had been hidden from view when Stewart parked his car over the manhole cover

a magnificent £1.5-million mansion predominantly with Helen's money. Was this the elusive happy ending that Helen had felt would never be hers? Her family were not so sure.

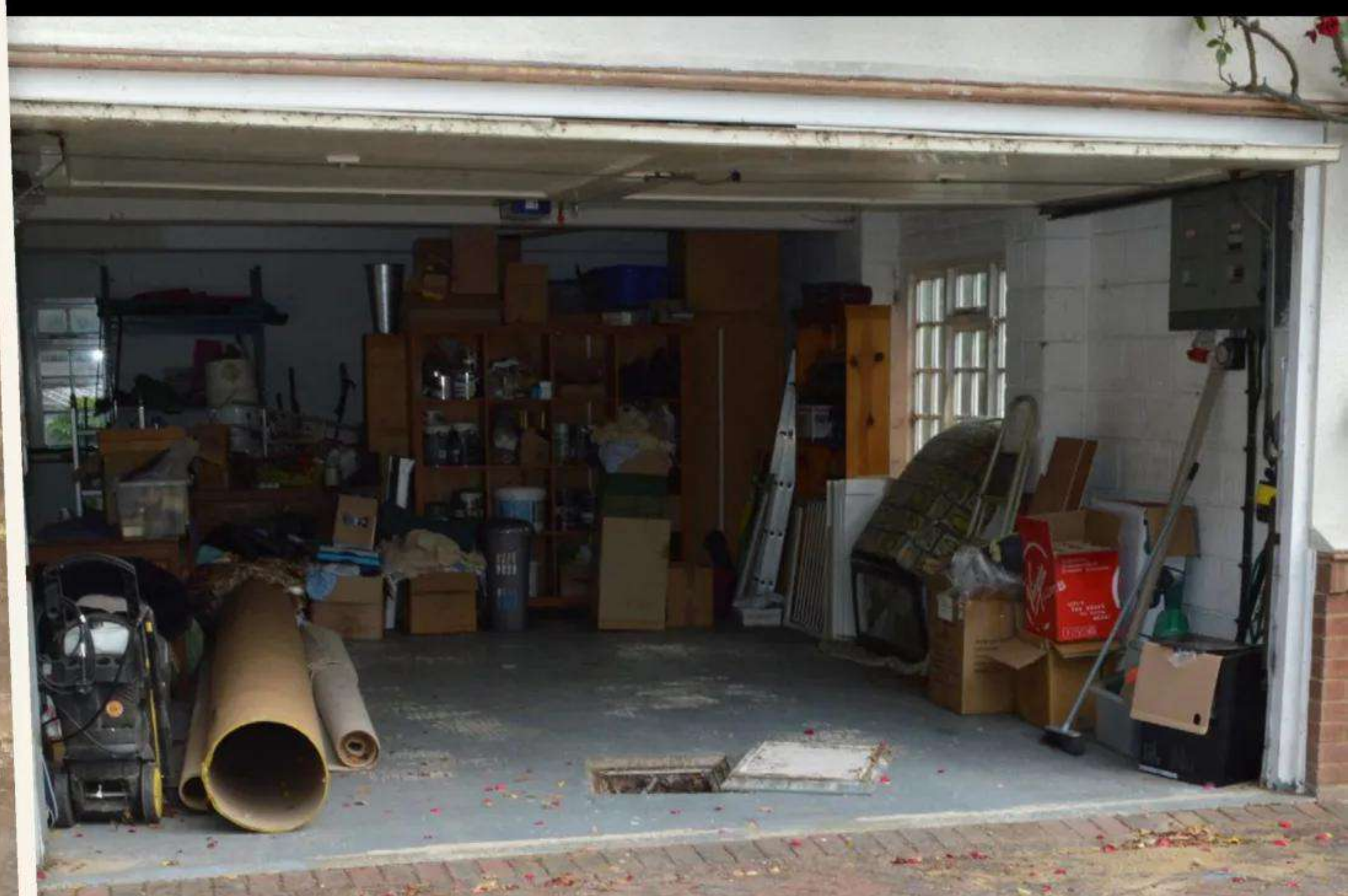
While Helen was infatuated with Stewart, friends failed to see the attraction. Helen was highly successful. Stewart hadn't worked for over 20 years. Helen adored her faithful dog, Boris, but Stewart detested the hound and often complained about the number of pictures of the pooch there were dotted around the house. She always wore beautiful outfits, whereas he shuffled about in grubby old clothes. Most worryingly, Helen's gentle, fun-loving personality was the complete antithesis of Stewart's angry, antagonistic attitude towards their new neighbours. Friends noted his flashes of temper and anti-social temperament, so different from Helen's. After he threw rocks at the neighbours' family pet and attempted to intimidate a woman living nearby, people started to give Stewart a wide berth. But Helen couldn't see it. She treasured Stewart's two sons as if they were her own, adulated their father and watched with pride as her latest book, *When Bad Things Happen in Good Bikinis*, began to fly off the shelves.

A new will was drawn up in 2014, reflecting Helen's happy circumstances. Stewart was to be her main beneficiary, meaning that he would ultimately inherit the majority of her £4-million fortune while also cashing in on a £1.28-million life insurance policy if she passed away first.

The pair were now engaged, and as Helen made wedding plans, Stewart kept his eye on the financial side of things. Friends claimed that he winced at the exorbitant price of engagement rings despite the fact that the money would come from Helen's own fortune. Stewart had love-bombed Helen when they first met, but now things seemed to have cooled off, at least from his perspective.

Helen wanted to know all she could about her future husband. Eventually her questions turned to Stewart's first wife. Curled up on the loveseat, with Boris on her lap and her husband-to-be by her side, Stewart proceeded to tell her about his deceased wife.

Diane Stewart had been 47 years old when she had died. Stewart described how he had come home to find her unconscious in the garden. On closer inspection he discovered that she was in fact dead. When Helen tentatively asked what had happened, Stewart explained that she had been diagnosed with epilepsy many years previously and she had died during a massive seizure. Helen could easily relate





“A NEW WILL WAS DRAWN UP IN 2014. STEWART WOULD INHERIT THE MAJORITY OF HER FORTUNE IF SHE PASSED AWAY”



Stewart had most likely sedated first wife Diane before suffocating her. On examination of her brain it became clear that she had suffered a lack of oxygen for up to an hour

to the trauma he must have faced and marvelled at how well he had gone on to bring up the two boys all alone.

Helen's infatuation was playing right into Stewart's hands. Not only had she changed her will in his favour, thereby reducing the gifts previously bequeathed to her brother and stepchildren, but her would-be-husband also suggested that she give him power of attorney. Had her family and friends been aware of this sudden change of heart and resulting alteration of her legal documents, alarm bells would have rung earlier. As it was, Helen's financial amendments were kept a secret between her financial advisor, herself and her manipulative fiancé. A besotted Helen willingly agreed to his suggestions, unaware that, in doing so, she had sealed her doom by gifting him an irresistible motive to kill.

A 'MEDIUM-RISK' DISAPPEARANCE

In 2016, three years after she had first moved in with Ian Stewart, Helen started to feel under the weather. The once energetic author complained to friends that she was perpetually exhausted. Taking Boris for his daily walk had become a chore rather than her favourite part of the day. As each day passed her memory became worse and her lightning-quick thought processes became sluggish and foggy.

As she sat at her computer she found remembering plotlines for her latest book almost impossible. Her brother realised that something was terribly wrong, but no one could have guessed the real reason why she had become so fatigued

and confused. When she started falling asleep, sometimes for hours at a time during the middle of the day, her mother begged her to make an appointment to visit the doctor. Stewart, meanwhile, appeared unconcerned by his fiancée's sudden deterioration. Friends thought he showed a lack of empathy, but in truth it was because he already knew exactly why she was permanently drowsy.

For over 20 years Ian Stewart had suffered from myasthenia gravis, an autoimmune disease that left him breathless and weak. It also caused bouts of insomnia and, as a means of overcoming these unpleasant periods, he was prescribed a strong sleeping pill, Zopiclone. Luckily for him, he had not suffered sleepless nights for a while, but for some strange reason he had continued to order repeat prescriptions of the powerful drug. He had also started offering to make Helen breakfast in the morning, an unexpected pleasure for her since it was she who typically ran around and looked after him. Little did she know that her daily serving of scrambled eggs, which had been lovingly prepared by her partner, also contained an unhealthy sprinkling of the crushed-up sleeping tablets.

Stewart's motive was crystal clear: he wanted her money, and he certainly felt entitled to take it, but it was his wicked actions that took place on 11 April 2016 that would later lead police detectives to question what made him think he could get away with it. That particular question would not be answered until six years later, shocking all those who had loved Helen Bailey and leaving them with a strong belief that her murder could have been averted.

ABOVE LEFT The 'gorgeous, grey-haired widower' was supposed to provide her with a happy ever after, but Stewart had another ending in mind



“ THEY DECIDED TO DIG THE YARD UP. ON THE SECOND SCOOP THEY UNCOVERED A HUMAN HEAD THAT STILL HAD HAIR ON IT ”

ABOVE CCTV footage showed Stewart dumping a duvet at the tip on the day that Helen disappeared. When asked by police officers why he had done so, Stewart had nothing to say

BOTTOM RIGHT A waste disposal firm was called in to drain the cesspit with a vacuum tanker, only to discover a human arm floating in the sewage

Helen's last email was sent at 10.51 a.m. from her iPad. An hour later she failed to pick up a call from a close friend who phoned Helen's brother two days later to find out where she was. It appeared as though the author and her beloved dog had simply disappeared.

Eventually, on 15 April, Stewart rang Hertfordshire Police to report Helen missing. He claimed that she had left him a note stating that she “needed space and time alone” but no one had heard from her and she hadn't gone to her holiday home. Police were not unduly concerned, citing her case as a medium-risk situation, mainly because of the note and the fact she was a grown woman who was entitled to ‘disappear’ if she wanted to. Police failed to notice the signs that things were not as Stewart had suggested they were. Family and friends knew that Helen would never have walked away without giving some indication of her whereabouts, and she certainly wouldn't have missed the phone calls she regularly made to her mother. An ominous cloud hung over Hartwell Lodge where Helen had made her home, and it was here, in the shadows, that Stewart continued to manipulate the narrative of her disappearance.

A VERY REAL DANGER TO WOMEN

Stewart proceeded to carry out a series of highly suspicious

movements. CCTV footage showed him tossing a duvet into the local tip the day Helen disappeared. He later returned to see if it had gone. Her credit card was used to purchase Arsenal season tickets over the phone and, most telling of all, he attempted to sell one of her properties, becoming angry when the solicitor insisted that Helen needed to be present to complete any transaction.

Two months later, Hertfordshire Police decided that it was unlikely Helen had disappeared of her own accord and a murder investigation was opened. At last the police turned their attention to Stewart, whose demeanour was one of irritation rather than distress. He appeared confused and bored in equal measure, failing to remember his partner's birthday and contradicting himself at every turn. When interviewed less than two weeks after Helen's disappearance he seemed to have forgotten key details that should have stood out in his mind, claiming that he could only “remember





THE HIDDEN EVIDENCE

THE EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY WAS THERE TO SEE, SO WHY WAS IT OVERLOOKED?

In the UK, when an individual dies unexpectedly, the law states that a post-mortem examination must be carried out to identify the cause of death despite the trauma and anxiety it often causes the deceased's bewildered family and friends. If the death is treated as questionable in any way, a forensic post-mortem is undertaken. This includes a full toxicology report and anatomical examination. However, if the death appears unsuspicious, a cursory non-forensic inspection may take place. Ian Stewart's apparent distress at finding his wife fooled the police, who quickly accepted his explanation of an epileptic seizure. Without a thorough examination of Diane Stewart's brain to identify any physiological changes, nor an accompanying neck dissection, which would have shown clear signs of suffocation, it was impossible to disprove his alleged theory of an unforeseen fatal seizure. The manipulative killer somehow managed to convince both the police and coroners of his innocence.

ABOVE This grim mugshot of Ian Stewart reveals the real greedy, cold-blooded psychopath behind the eyes staring out defiantly at the police camera

bits of it". He argued that he had no idea where Helen's phone was, and yet police could prove that it had briefly connected to the holiday home Wi-Fi when he went there, supposedly to look for her. As if this wasn't suspicious enough, he decided to take a two-week holiday to Spain rather than help look for his missing fiancée. Police noticed that he had started speaking of Helen in the past tense, and friends were shocked to hear that he had ordered a ceramic urn, presumably 'just in case'. When asked if anyone suspicious had been spotted during the days leading up to her disappearance, Stewart said, "No one springs to mind at all, no." This comment would become highly significant during his subsequent trial when two new characters would be introduced as part of his defence.

By 11 July the police decided to arrest Stewart, and four days later Helen's body was discovered 14 feet beneath the garage, floating in a cesspit alongside Boris. Had police initially taken the disappearance more seriously, perhaps her tragic end would have been uncovered sooner. As it was, the family were now made aware that Helen was most likely alive when she was thrown into the human effluent and drowned.

Cornered and with few options left to him, Stewart changed his story, this time claiming that Helen had been kidnapped by two mysterious colleagues of her former husband. It was 'Nick' and 'Joe' who had taken her and then cruelly stashed her body in the sewer beneath the house. The story would have been laughable had it not ended in such tragedy, but Stewart was convinced the jury would believe him.

The trial began on 10 January 2017 before a packed viewing gallery. The prosecution painted Stewart as a heartless manipulator who had chosen Helen because of her healthy bank balance and multiple homes. She had been in a vulnerable state, making his plan far easier to carry out. Forensic analysis of her hair clearly showed that she had been regularly drugged with her killer's personal stash of Zopiclone.

The fact that all legal documents had been amended, making Stewart the primary beneficiary, was offered to the jury as a motive. The lack of physical injuries suggested that she had been smothered while in a drugged state, thrown into the septic tank and left to drown in the filthy water beneath the house she loved so much. When asked to produce the note supposedly left by Helen, Stewart could only mumble that he had misplaced it.



Helen's brother John was a crucial witness, telling the jurors that Helen had joked about the secret cesspit, saying it would be a good place to hide a body

LASER SCANNING THE CRIME SCENE

FORENSIC INVESTIGATORS RECREATED THE SCENE USING HIGH-TECH LASER SCANNERS, ALLOWING THE JURY TO SEE EVERY DETAIL FROM THE COMFORT OF THE COURTROOM

A FINAL INJUSTICE

THE FAMILY WERE HAPPY WITH THE WHOLE-LIFE TARIFF GIVEN TO STEWART, SO WHY WAS IT CHANGED?

The controversial Whole Life Tariff has been handed out to 60 of the most notorious killers in the UK, all of whom know that they will spend the rest of their lives incarcerated without hope of parole. Although many lawyers feel that this is a breach of human rights, the Home Office still believes that there is a need for the severe punishment, and it has proved to be popular with the general public, who often feel that sentencing in the UK is far too lenient.

Although Stewart was handed a WLT, his lawyers immediately appealed, and in July 2020, to the horror of the victim's family, the Lord Chief Justice, along with four high-ranking judges, reduced his sentence to a 35-year minimum term, claiming that Diane Stewart's murder, when taken in isolation, could not be 'regarded as an offence of exceptionally high seriousness'. Needless to say, her family and friends strongly disagree.

Hartwell Lodge was supposed to be her forever home, but in the end it served as Helen Bailey's £1.5-million grave



Although the jury were taken to Hartwell Lodge during the trial, this laser imaging 3D model allowed them to study the entrance to the property in detail. It also gave detectives a point of reference when back at the station.



Tents were placed around the entrance to the garage, protecting the crime scene. Jurors and investigators could study the image outside and within the tents. Weather can destroy key evidence, but the laser images capture the scene quickly and permanently.



It took the forensic team two days to excavate the cesspit. The scanner images allowed the jury to understand the process involved, and the police could keep a record of each stage. In this way no evidence is missed or lost.



The jury could not see inside the drained cesspit for safety reasons. The 'point clouds' created by the scanner allowed a walk-through visualisation of the scene, giving them a spatial reference. As a result, jurors were offered various points of view.

The defence counsel responded with the fanciful kidnap story whereby two individuals had taken Helen. This, they claimed, was the only reason Stewart had lied about the note. While the tale was a stretch of the imagination for the jury, they were all the more unconvinced when two gentlemen, Joe Cippullo and Nick Cook, were brought into the courtroom by the prosecution. Both had known the accused some time before he had moved in with Helen and matched the descriptions of the kidnappers Stewart had given to the police.

The defence were on the back foot. However, they had one card left to play. Stewart had no history of violence against women and had, up until this ghastly incident, never committed any crime. He had, they maintained, lived a blameless life.

Six weeks later, having listened to both sides of the tragedy, the jury filed back into the courtroom and read out their verdict: guilty. His Honour Judge Andrew Bright QC passed down a minimum prison sentence of 34 years, a severe jail term for a first offence. The judge defended the sentence by asserting that he believed Ian Stewart to be 'a very real danger to women'. Five years later, his description would be substantiated in a most shocking revelation.

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

Having discovered Helen Bailey's body, horrified police were left with an uneasy feeling. Ian Stewart had initially appeared concerned about the disappearance of his fiancée, but as time went on, the convincing mask of distress slipped and glimpses of his true nature began to show. Could he have deceived others in this way? Was this truly the first time he had committed such a heinous crime? The police soon came to the conclusion that this was highly unlikely, especially since his actions were so brazen and self-assured. It was as if Stewart knew that he was capable of getting away with murder. With a sense of deep foreboding, they began investigating the sudden death of his first wife.

Diane Stewart had dropped dead while hanging out the washing in her back garden. She left behind an apparently grieving husband and two traumatised boys who couldn't understand how their mother could have been taken from them so suddenly. Diane had appeared fit and healthy and, although she had been diagnosed with epilepsy as a youngster, regular medication had controlled the condition. As a result she hadn't suffered a seizure in 18 years.

Stewart claimed to have found his wife slumped on the concrete patio having returned from a shopping trip. He phoned the emergency services and was instructed to perform CPR while he waited for the ambulance to come. When the paramedics arrived they were unconvinced that Stewart had attempted any form of medical intervention and were instantly suspicious. During the 999 call he mentioned that Diane was "frothing at the nose", yet when the first responders arrived Stewart had no trace of froth on his face, as would normally be visible after CPR had taken place. Had she fallen on the patio as Stewart had proposed, her head would have struck the concrete. However, there was no blood on the floor or any contusions across her forehead or scalp. Equally strange, Diane had not bitten her tongue as was usual during an epileptic seizure. Stewart was confident as to the cause of death, stating during an interview that "my wife had a fit".

The paramedics' concerns were logged but, having taken the body to the hospital, the coroner relied upon the testimonies of the police and the inconsolable husband, who



TOP Helen was an extremely popular member of the community and when the shocking news of her murder became public neighbours quickly responded with a flurry of floral tributes

confidently reiterated exactly how she had died. If only they had paid more attention to his behaviour during an earlier interview that took place at the scene. Police officers noted that Stewart avoided eye contact, continually massaged his head and refused to answer any direct questions relating to the moments before he had called for help.

Hindsight, as they say, is a remarkable thing, and as the police reread the initial investigation into Diane Stewart's demise they realised that things were not as they had first appeared. Stewart, who was by this time serving a life sentence for killing Helen, was arrested and questioned regarding the death of Diane. During one interview, when an officer asked, "So talk to us about Diane's epilepsy, what can you tell us about her condition?" Stewart muttered "no comment". Having been charged with her murder the arrogant killer pleaded "not guilty".

During the trial, experts explained that the likelihood of Mrs Stewart suffering a fatal seizure after 18 years with no symptoms was approximately 1 in 100,000. If this wasn't damning enough, the prosecution was preparing another hammer blow against the defence counsel. Unbeknownst to Stewart, Diane had donated her brain to science and, quite by chance, a fragment remained. On closer inspection changes in the brain known as ischemia revealed that she had died from suffocation rather than from a sudden death brought on by epilepsy as Stewart had claimed. She had been strangled.

Stewart was found guilty and their two sons were faced with the ghastly realisation that their father had callously murdered their mother. But the ripples of this shocking news also affected the family and friends of Helen Bailey. Loved ones of the author had wondered at Stewart's brazen attitude towards the murder and subsequent disposal of the body. Now it all made sense. He felt immune to detection because he had got away with killing before, and if Diane hadn't donated her brain for research, the murder would have remained a secret forever. Thoughts now turned to the coroner's team that had failed to question the killer's explanation. Had they been more thorough Stewart would have been behind bars far earlier and Helen would still be alive. Initially, they could take consolation in the knowledge that Stewart, the avaricious parasite, was to spend the rest of his life in prison with no hope of parole, but even this small ray of light was ultimately extinguished, leaving them with a heart-breaking sense of injustice.

MINUTE **BY** MINUTE

AURORA CINEMA SHOOTING

BATMAN MULTIPLEX MASSACRE

A MIDNIGHT PREMIERE OF THE LATEST BATMAN FILM WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY MOVIE NIGHT FOR FANS IN COLORADO – FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS

WORDS ROBERT WALSH

James Eagan Holmes was a nobody. A maladjusted, socially inept loner, he'd suffered from psychiatric and personality problems for years. When he walked into Aurora, Colorado's midnight premiere of *Batman: The Dark Knight Rises* on 20 July 2012, something inside Holmes had snapped. In his own mind he was a nobody, but was determined to become a somebody. Holmes would murder 12 people, injure dozens and blight the lives of Aurora's citizens. He would again reignite the USA's gun control debate, having taken full advantage of the gun culture to do it.

Holmes, always maladjusted, had deteriorated considerably in the months before the Aurora massacre. Former co-workers, fellow students, psychiatrists and his few friends all noticed his decline, but little action was taken.

Increasingly anti-social, withdrawn and isolated, he had been at university but dropped out. His girlfriend had recently broken off their relationship. In his own mind Holmes was destined to go nowhere, do nothing and become nobody. Having dropped out of college, though, his money for tuition and living would be put to other, terrible uses. In the months before the massacre Holmes spent thousands of

dollars stockpiling a selection of guns and a huge amount of ammunition. All his weapons and ammunition were bought entirely legally. Having no criminal convictions, Holmes had no difficulty buying two pistols, a pump-action shotgun and a semi-automatic rifle. Nor did he have any trouble getting tear gas grenades, bulletproof clothing and a knife.

Holmes didn't even have to buy his vast amount of ammunition in person. Most Americans buy their guns in person, subject to state and federal restrictions and background checks, but there are no such restrictions or checks on buying or selling ammunition online. Apart from armour-piercing bullets (which are available only to law enforcement), Americans can buy ammunition online in any quantity. CCTV footage later showed Holmes collecting a package of assorted ammunition weighing over 73 kilograms bought in bulk online.

Other than a desire to be notorious, Holmes had no reason for doing what he did. His need for recognition could never begin to justify his actions. Holmes, increasingly depressed, disillusioned and desperate, just didn't care. His plan was simple, its execution coldly precise.

“HAVING NO CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS, HOLMES HAD NO DIFFICULTY BUYING TWO PISTOLS, A PUMP-ACTION SHOTGUN AND A SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE”



ABOVE Police and forensic experts descended on the Century 16 cinema in their hundreds. They would still be gathering evidence weeks after the massacre and Holmes's inexplicably calm surrender

19 JULY 2012

23.45

Blogger and aspiring broadcaster Jessica Ghawi (also known as Jessica Redfield) is at the cinema. She sends what will be the last SMS message of her life. Texting a friend, she types “Movie don't start for 20 minutes.” Holmes is also eagerly awaiting the start of the movie.



James Holmes's mental state deteriorated in the months leading up to the massacre. He stated his belief that killing people would make his own life more meaningful

20 JULY 2012

23.50

Holmes lives just three kilometres from the cinema. Having loaded his car with weapons, he leaves over 30 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted in his apartment. Making a final check on his arsenal and hell-bent on mass murder, Holmes leaves and heads for the cinema.

00.00

One of Holmes's neighbours, irritated by loud music blasting from his apartment, goes to his door and threatens to call the police. Holmes isn't there, and the neighbour wisely decides not to open the door. If she had she could have triggered dozens of bombs.

00.05

The film begins. Holmes is already inside with the rest of the audience. He can still back out, drive home and leave the audience to enjoy an ordinary movie night, but chooses not to. From now on he's committed to his carefully planned crime.

00.25

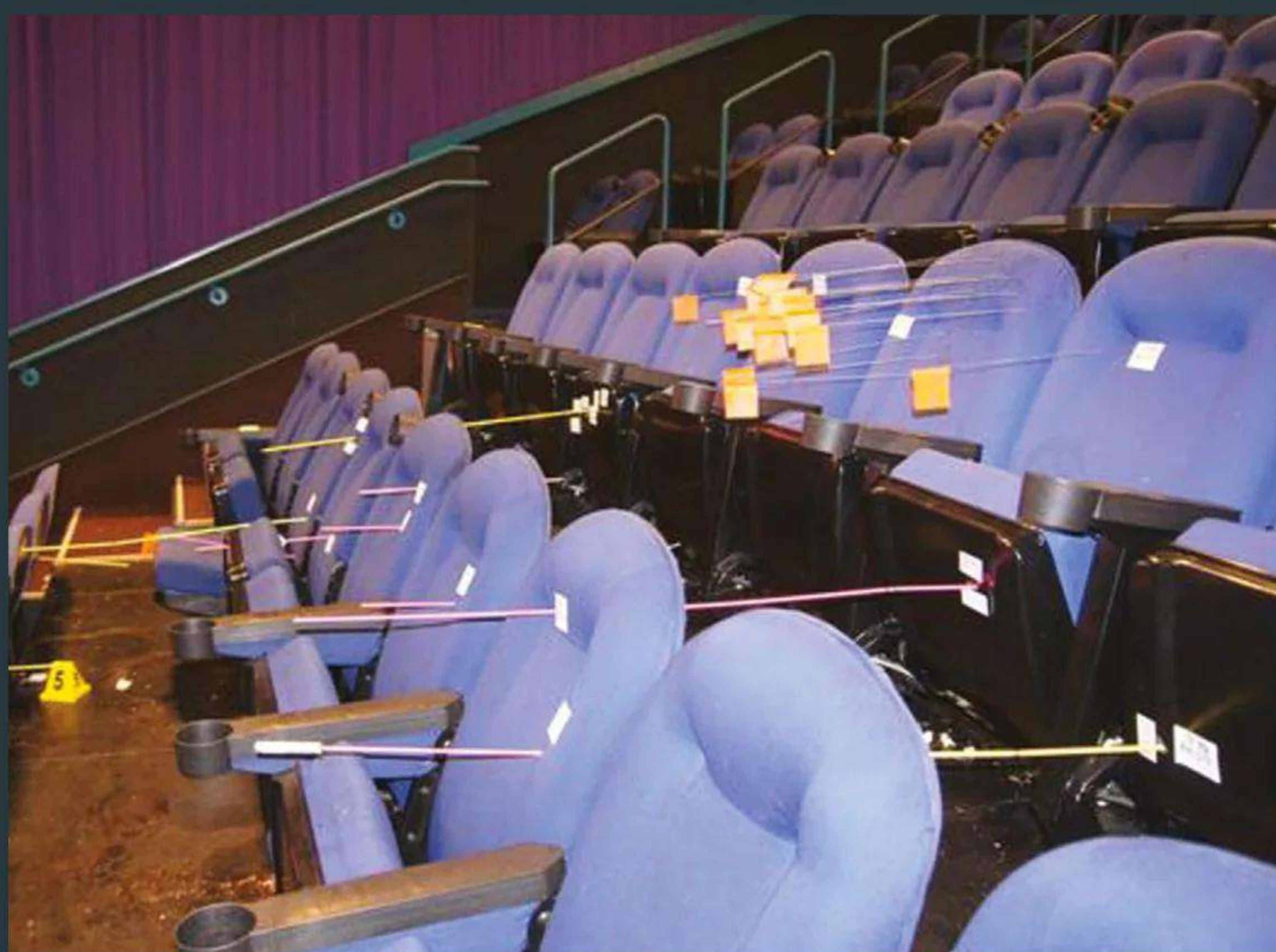
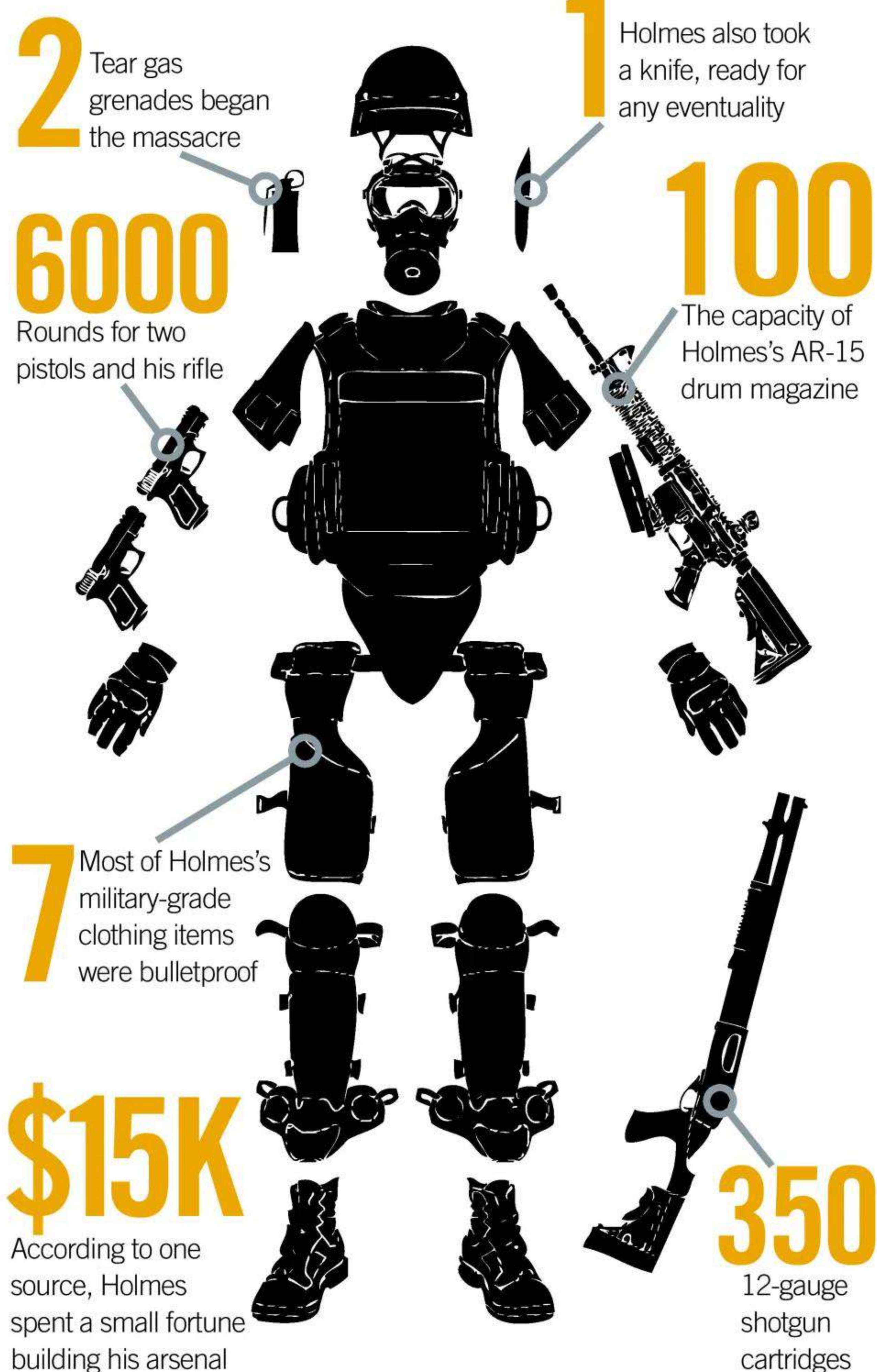
Holmes leaves the cinema, supposedly going outside to use his mobile phone. He's actually gearing up, putting on his bulletproof gear and readying his weapons. He then returns to the cinema.

00.38

Holmes waits until a noisy action scene begins. While the cinema's loudspeakers blast out the sound of blank bullets, he's about to start firing dozens of real ones. Tossing two gas grenades into the cinema, he fires into the ceiling. Holmes then empties all six cartridges from his shotgun into the audience. Holmes switches to his semi-automatic rifle and continues firing.

“HUMAN CAPITAL”

HOLMES GATHERED A HUGE ARSENAL, WITH MANY TIMES MORE ROUNDS THAN HE EVENTUALLY USED



ABOVE TOP Over 30 improvised grenades as well as litres of petrol were planted in Holmes's apartment as booby-traps for anyone who entered

ABOVE Police markers indicate bullet holes and the bullets' trajectories. Holmes fired 76 shots from three different weapons into the unsuspecting audience that night

00.39

At first the audience think it's some kind of publicity stunt dreamt up as additional entertainment. They soon realise it's anything but. Holmes continues to fire methodically into the crowd, picking his targets and firing rapidly for maximum effect.

00.40

Within 90 seconds of being alerted local police arrive on the scene. Expecting a firefight, the armed and armoured Holmes has catered for their arrival. He's wearing more body armour than most of the police officers and is certainly more heavily armed. He fires 67 rounds from his rifle. Dead, wounded and dying victims now litter the floor of the cinema's theatre nine.

00.42

Victims stagger out of Century 16, those who can walk helping those who can't. Police begin to surround the building. According to some witnesses Holmes is still firing. Police request additional backup and, now aware the shooter has used gas, request gas masks so they can enter the building. Even veteran officers are appalled by what they're seeing.

00.45

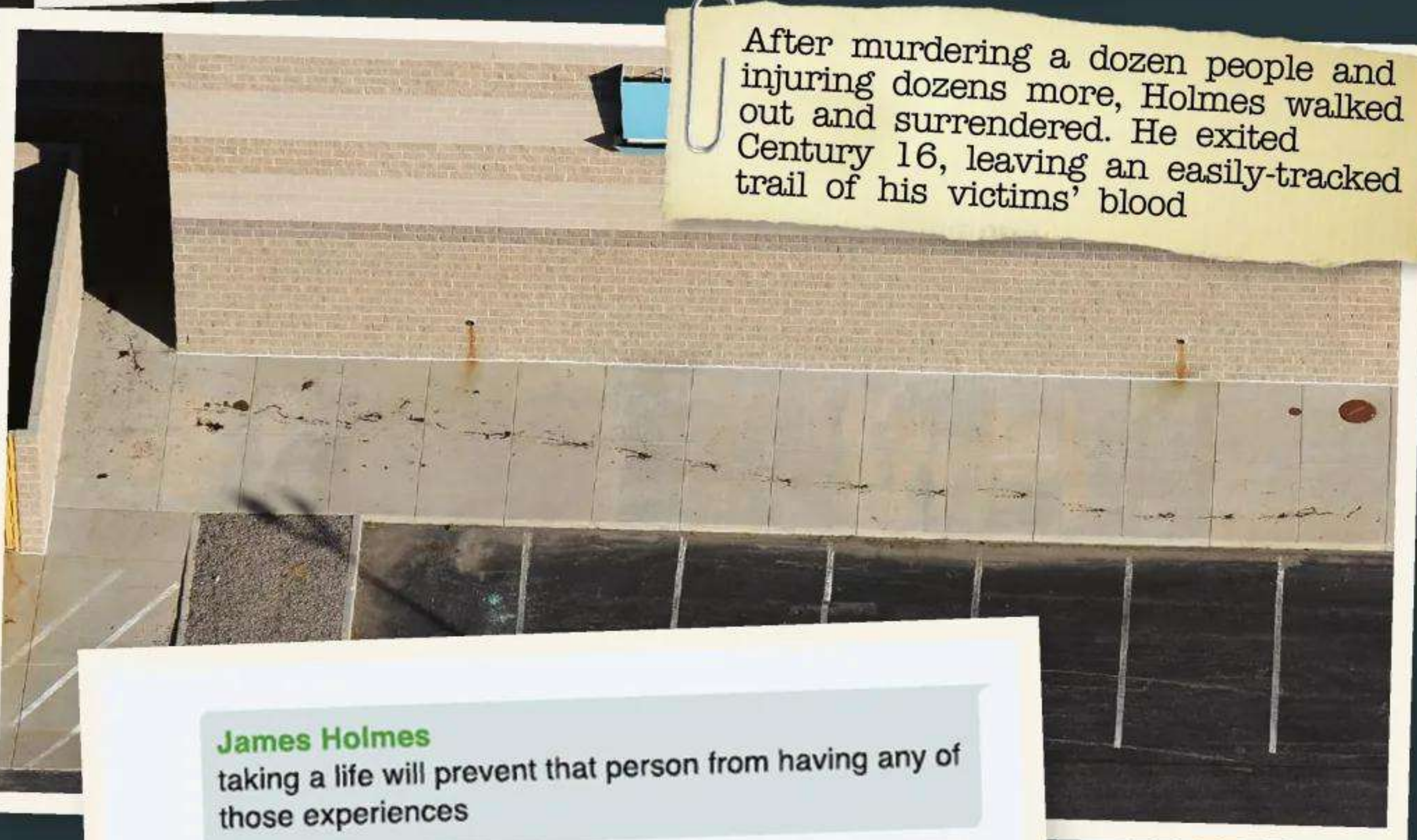
Holmes ceases fire – his rifle has jammed. Switching to his pistol, he fires a few more shots. In all he has fired 76 shotgun, rifle and pistol rounds and killed or wounded 70 victims. 12 more are injured by the gas grenades or fleeing the cinema. In a couple of minutes Holmes has committed one of the USA's worst mass shootings.

00.46

Holmes, his shotgun empty and his rifle jammed, leaves the cinema. Walking back to his car, Holmes surrenders peacefully to police officer Jason Oviatt, who quickly frisks him for weapons before handcuffing him. Despite the slaughter he's just committed, Holmes inexplicably comes quietly.



A chilling trail of blood and a victim's flip-flops accompany Holmes's rifle, abandoned on the floor by the cinema's fire exit



After murdering a dozen people and injuring dozens more, Holmes walked out and surrendered. He exited Century 16, leaving an easily-tracked trail of his victims' blood

James Holmes

taking a life will prevent that person from having any of those experiences



Gargi Datta

how would that help you though? What would taking a life give you?

James Holmes

Human capital. Some people may make 1 million dollars, others 100,000. But life is priceless. You take away life and your human capital is limitless



Gargi Datta

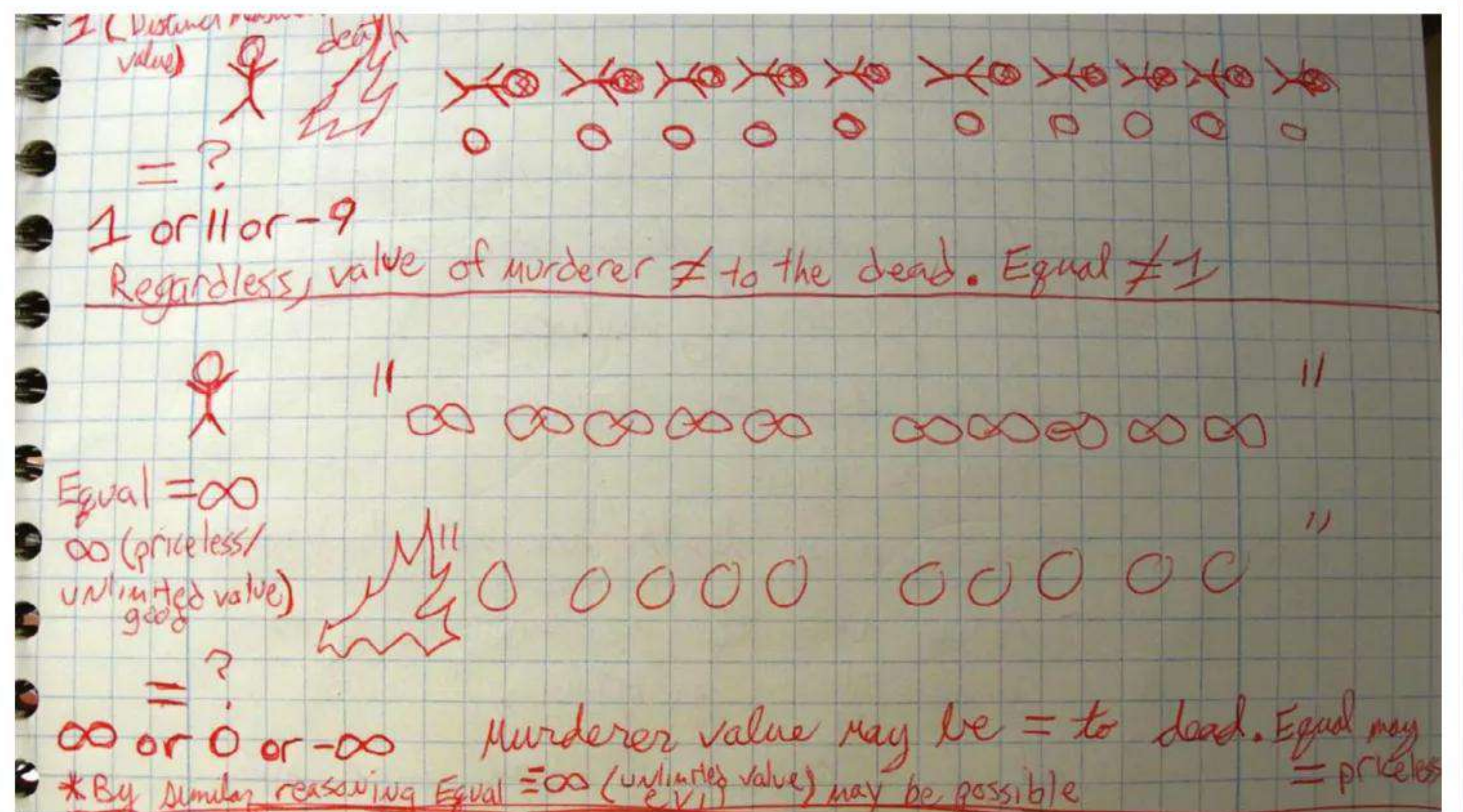
what would you do with the human capital?

James Holmes

Have a more meaningful life

LEFT In messages exchanged with his former girlfriend, Holmes expressed his warped views of the value of life and "human capital"

“ IN ALL, HE HAS FIRED 76 SHOTGUN, RIFLE AND PISTOL ROUNDS AND KILLED OR WOUNDED 70 VICTIMS. 12 MORE ARE INJURED BY THE GAS GRENADES OR FLEEING THE CINEMA ”



“THAT’S MY MIND. IT’S BROKEN”

HOLMES DOCUMENTED HIS GRADUAL MENTAL BREAKDOWN IN A NOTEBOOK HE MAILED TO A UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO PSYCHIATRIST

Holmes had met with mental health professionals in the past, and one psychiatrist even suspected he had a borderline condition, and that he could be dangerous. Just days before the midnight premiere, Holmes posted a notebook to a psychiatrist who had treated him, which only arrived after the cinema shooting. Inside are the “Insights into the mind of madness”. Holmes diagnoses himself with a range of mental disorders of varying severity. Terrifyingly, he draws dozens of stick men, most lying flat and one standing, followed by a string of equations in which he tries to gauge the value of a murderer by the number of people they kill. He then talks about his own obsession with mass murder, followed by a plan of his attack on the Aurora cinema complex.

00.48

Holmes is initially “calm and detached” after his arrest, according to one police officer. His mood changes when he sees the extent of the police operation and public reaction. He takes a keen interest in how his actions have spread chaos, violence and death. Innocent people have been made to pay a terrible price for Holmes to have his 15 minutes of infamy.

00.50

With so many casualties and chaos around Century 16, ambulances alone aren’t enough. Police officers have to resort to using their own squad cars to ferry the victims to hospitals while their colleagues try and restore order at Century 16. In a strange coincidence, local officers had used the cinema as a training ground, but no amount of training can prepare them for this.

02.00

Officers evacuate Holmes’s apartment block and nearby buildings. He has warned them his home is booby-trapped with IEDs. Inside, officers find over 30 improvised grenades wired to a control box. Had they simply charged into his apartment, Holmes’s bombs would have proved lethal. It will take days to clear them so officers can safely search the apartment.

11.40

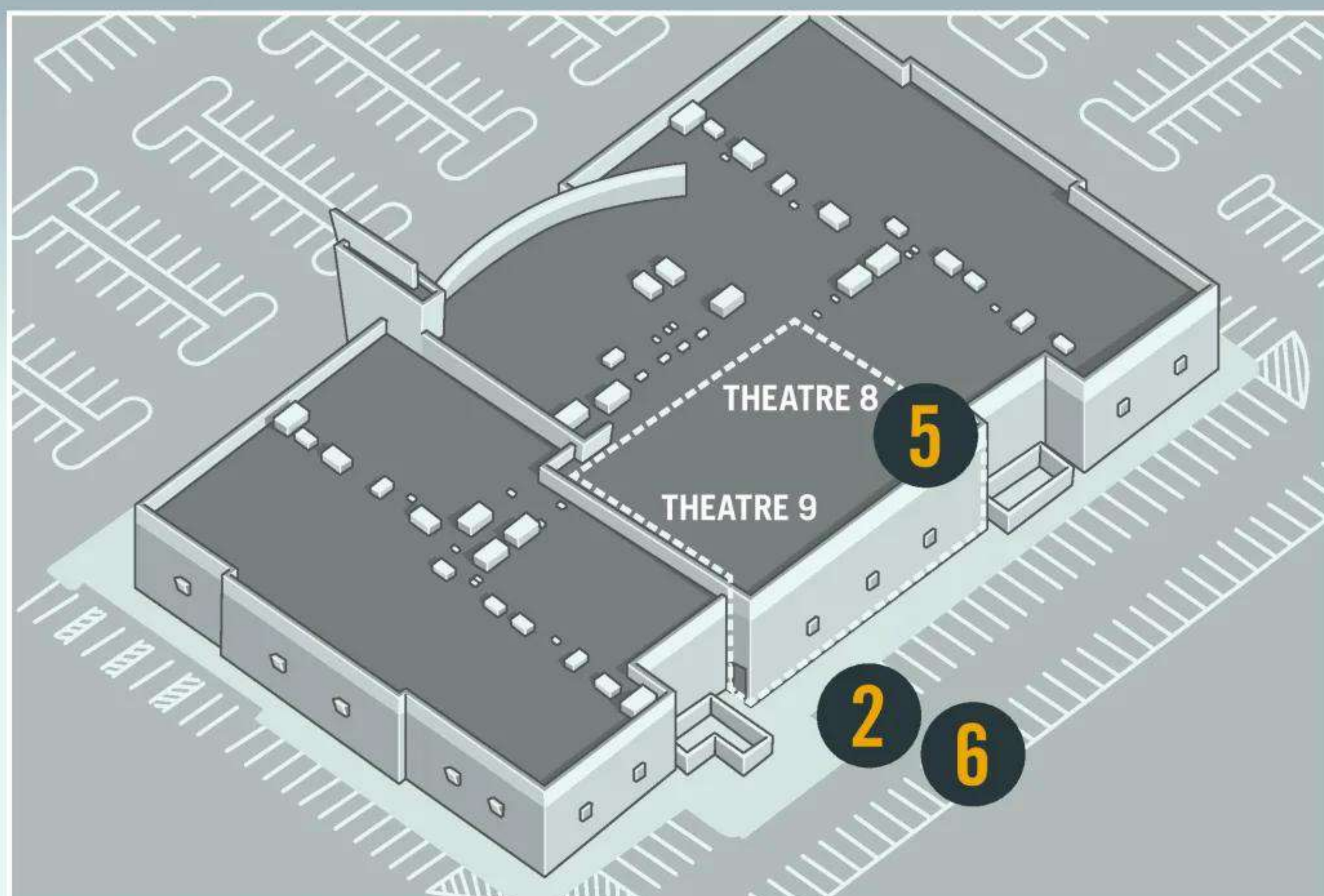
Having seen the array of bombs at his apartment, officers fear Holmes might have left more of them elsewhere. Two buildings at his workplace, the University of Colorado Medical Campus, are closed for inspection. Knowing Holmes had used gas at Century 16, police also shut down the ventilation system until it can be declared safe. Experts find nothing else.

12.22

The nation is appalled by the magnitude of the Aurora massacre. President Obama orders that, on the Wednesday after the shootings, the White House and all public buildings will fly their flags at half-mast as a mark of respect.

DARK NIGHT RISES

HOLMES'S PLAN WAS SIMPLE: CUT OFF THE MAIN ESCAPE ROUTE, CREATE PANIC AND SHOOT AS MANY MOVIEGOERS AS POSSIBLE



3 THE MASSACRE BEGINS

Holmes hurls two gas grenades, one towards each side of the theatre. His rifle strapped across his back, he uses the shotgun first for maximum effect. Buckshot sprays across the theatre and panic ensues. Positioned near the main exit, Holmes is between his victims and their most obvious escape route.

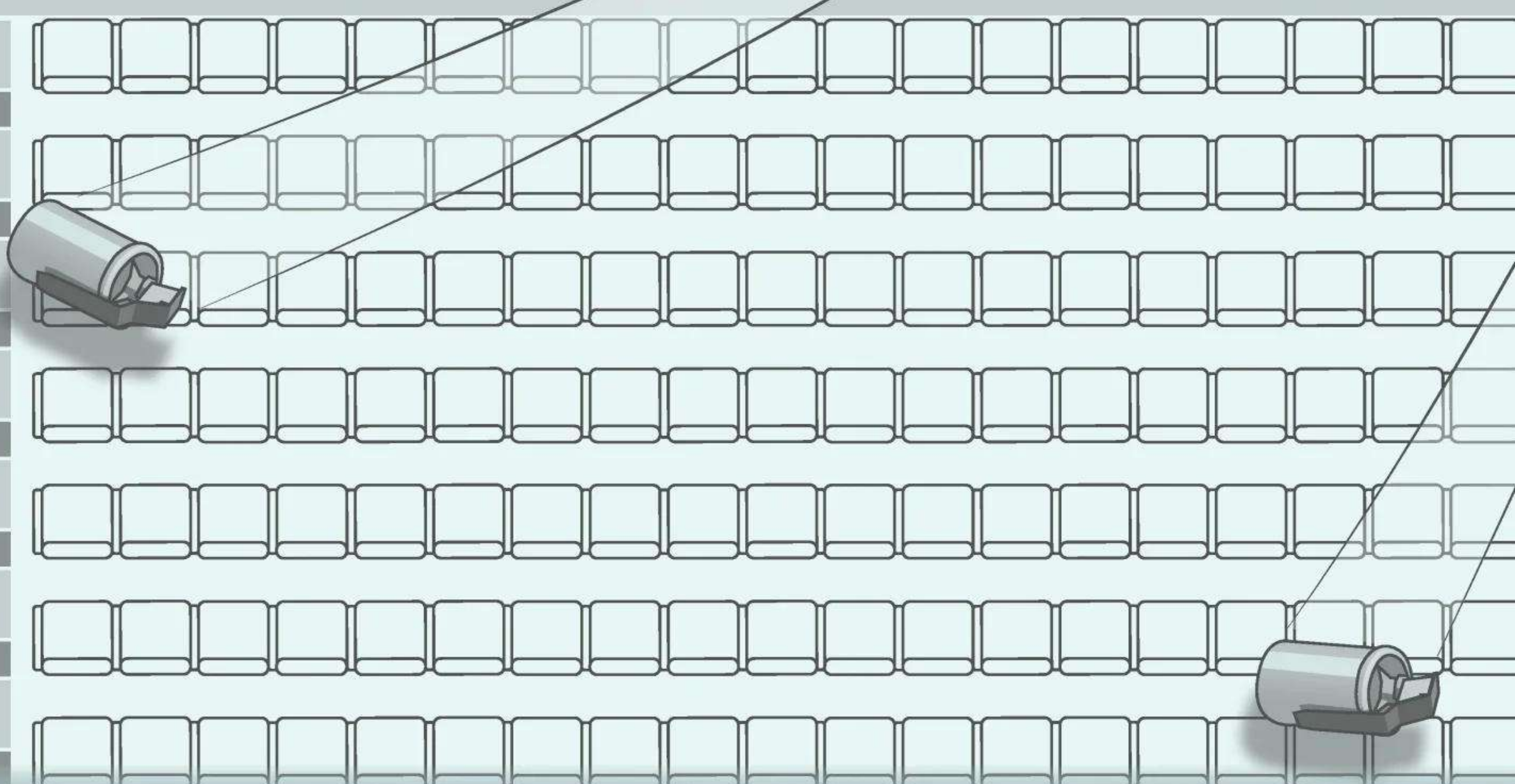


2 COSTUME CHANGE

Holmes goes straight to his car parked near the entrance. On goes his gas mask, helmet, throat protector, ballistic leggings, boots and body armour. He takes the shotgun, rifle and one of his pistols, leaving the other handgun in the car. He heads back to the theatre.

1 EXIT STAGE RIGHT

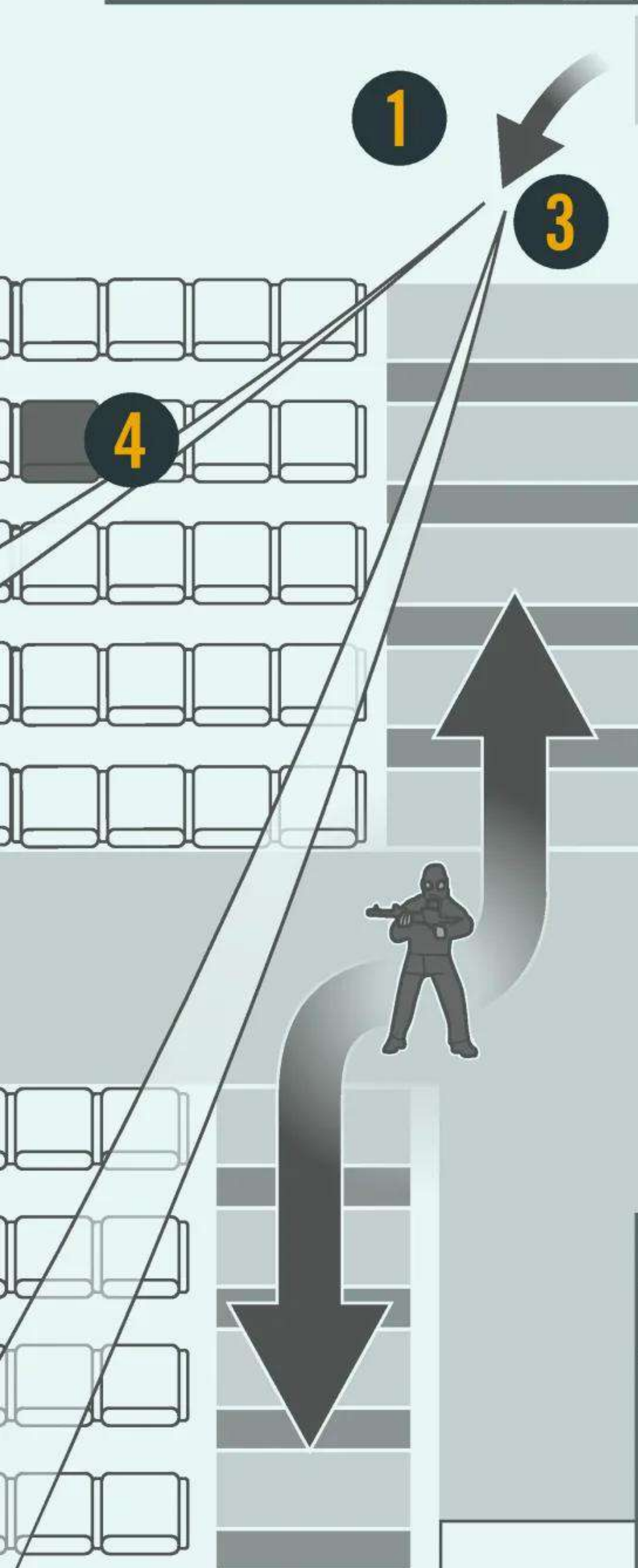
The movie begins just after midnight. Holmes has bought a ticket like anyone else. Pretending to use his mobile phone, he leaves the theatre through a fire exit. As he leaves he props the door open. Instead of using his phone, Holmes heads for his car.





4 CLOSE CALL, NARROW ESCAPE

Discarding his empty shotgun, Holmes unstraps his semi-automatic rifle. Jennifer Seeger comes face to face with Holmes, who aims straight at her but doesn't fire. Instead he shoots another movie-goer standing behind. His shooting is calm and methodical, picking his targets as he moves down the right side of the room. Seeger is lucky: she would later be interviewed, stating that she did not know why he didn't shoot her.



5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The 5.56mm round is designed for military use so is more powerful than many rifle bullets. One of them misses everybody in the room, penetrates the wall and hits a victim in theatre eight next door. Hundreds of 911 calls are now flooding into the Aurora Police Department, and officers respond immediately.



6 A STRANGE DECISION

Deciding that his mission is accomplished, Holmes simply leaves and walks outside. Faced with dozens of armed police, he makes an odd choice and surrenders instead of attacking. It's unusual behaviour for a mass murderer, but unpredictability is one of Holmes's hallmarks. Handing over his weapons, he is quickly taken into custody.



PAYING THE PRICE

WITH HOLMES IN CUSTODY, GUN CONTROL WAS AGAIN A HOT TOPIC. MEANWHILE, AURORA'S CITIZENS HAD TO PICK UP THE PIECES

For many Aurorans life would never be the same. Even hardened police officers, accustomed to seeing violent death, were appalled. Raiding Holmes's apartment, they also had to deal with the numerous IEDs Holmes himself had warned them about. According to Police Chief Daniel Oates, "It looks very sophisticated, how it's booby-trapped. It could be a very long wait."

Batman star Christian Bale quietly visited Aurora, meeting victims, their families and hospital staff. Director Christopher Nolan also expressed his horror at what had happened. In a 2018 interview Bale stated, "I have not been able to watch that film since because of Aurora."

As is usual after such an event, gun control dominated headlines. Why did Holmes assembling his arsenal not raise any red flags? Why were his serious personality and psychiatric issues not handled differently? What could be done to prevent it happening again?

Aurora's residents, once the media circus moved on, were left to carry on as best they could. Colorado gun sales rocketed due to public fears – up 43 per cent the week after the shootings. The Aurora Strong Resilience Center was founded by local citizens, offering therapy to survivors and anyone else affected.

On 19 July 2018, a permanent memorial was dedicated to the victims. It's sited near the Aurora Municipal Center a kilometre from the cinema. A park-like dell, it includes 83 abstract birds, one for each victim killed or injured.

After three years of pre-trial legal wrangling, Holmes's trial began on 27 April 2015. Holmes avoided the death penalty despite prosecutors originally seeking it – the jury failed to unanimously agree on such a penalty. On 26 August 2015 he received 12 life sentences without parole. An additional 3,318 years were added on related charges.

According to Judge Samour, it was "the intention of the court that the defendant never sets foot in free society again."

ABOVE James Eagen Holmes at his arraignment. Still with his hair dyed orange, Holmes identified himself to police as 'The Joker'

INSET Hollywood actor Christian Bale, star of *Batman: The Dark Knight Rises* visited Aurora shortly after the massacre. The aftermath of Holmes's crime still affects him today



HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT



WORDS GAVIN MACKENZIE

WHEN KILLERS EXPRESS THEIR MURDEROUS DESIRES IN PUBLIC WRITTEN WORKS, WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT THEIR MOTIVATIONS? ARE THEY CONFESSING? PROCESSING GUILT? OR ARE THESE WORKS JUST NARCISSISTIC BOASTS?

Most criminals do everything they can think of to conceal their crimes. They remove and destroy evidence (or avoid leaving it in the first place, if possible); they cover their tracks (literally and figuratively); and, in the immediate aftermath of their crimes, they lie low and they keep their heads down. It's just common sense. Commit a crime and the police, perhaps even the general public, will be looking for you. So it makes sense to hide away until the heat blows over.

But a surprising number of criminals do the exact opposite. Instead of hiding, they leave 'signatures' at their crime scenes, they taunt the authorities, or else they 'go loud', placing themselves in the public eye and make subtle hints and references to their crimes for all to see.

Three high-profile examples of criminals who have hidden in plain sight in this way are Nancy Crampton-Brophy, Krystian Bala and Jack Unterweger. All of them are calculating, deliberate killers, and all of them exposed

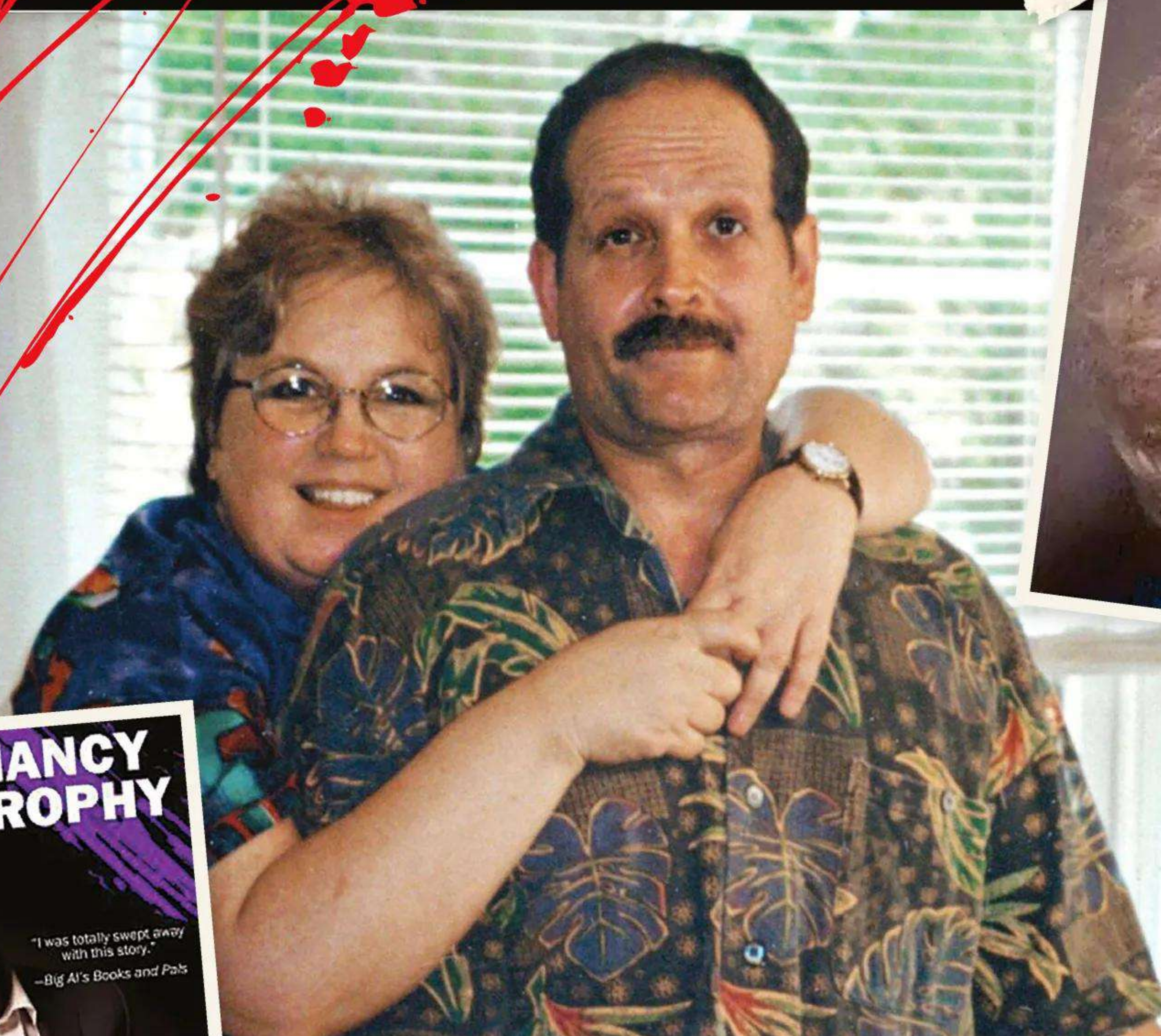
themselves to the risk of detection with bold, public acts that linked them to their crimes. They are, however, three very different people from very different backgrounds with very different motives. Nevertheless, criminal psychologist Emma Kenny believes that there is a common thread that binds these three cases together: psychopathy.

"Their egocentricity and willingness to manipulate the world to fit their agenda leads to the crimes they each commit," says Kenny. "They then seemingly continue with their lives without any notable distress, or regret."

Indeed, all three murderers were motivated by placing their own needs far above anyone else's, and all seemed indifferent to the grisly fates of their victims. What's more, their apparent need to publicly express themselves in matters relating to their crimes suggests a trait that sets psychopaths apart from the rest of us, criminal or otherwise. They are compulsive thrill-seekers who can't help but take risks in order to fuel their insatiable egos.



Nancy Crampton-Brophy was arrested three months after her husband's murder. She claims to have a "memory hole" regarding the morning he was killed



LEFT "Like all marriages," Crampton-Brophy wrote on the About page of her author website, "we've had our ups and downs, more good times than bad"

NANCY BROPHY

"I was totally swept away with this story."
—Big Al's Books and Pals

THE WRONG LOVER

WRONG NEVER FELT SO RIGHT

"My stories are about pretty men and strong women," says Nancy of her own work, "and about the joy of finding love and the difficulty of making it stay"

THE WRONG WIFE

On 4 November 2011, Nancy Crampton-Brophy published an essay on a low-profile writers' blog named See Jane Publish. The essay was a series of tips on how to write romantic murder mysteries with the catchy, provocative title *How to Murder Your Husband*. The essay was not actually a tutorial in how to kill a spouse, rather a collection of ideas designed to help stimulate the imaginations of fellow suspense writers. There's a list of motives, with "Financial (this is big)" taking the #1 spot, a list of murder methods, with "Guns" at the top, and a list of questions authors might want to ask themselves when sketching out murderous plots.

While her Amazon author bio refers to her as "award-winning", these accolades never translated into success as an author. None of her nine self-published books – including *The Wrong Husband*, *The Wrong Cop*, *The Wrong Hero*, *The Wrong Lover*, *The Wrong Seal*, and

The Wrong Brother – ever sold in significant numbers, and she was never picked up by an agent or publisher. Perhaps she was using the wrong titling motif.

Six years after *How to Murder Your Husband*, and times were hard for Crampton-Brophy and her husband Daniel. Her books weren't bringing in much cash and, while Daniel was well-liked at his job teaching at a culinary institute in Portland, it didn't pay especially well. Following a fire, the couple had been forced to rebuild their house from scratch, and money was extremely tight for the couple. But Crampton-Brophy had a plan to get them out of these financial dire straits.

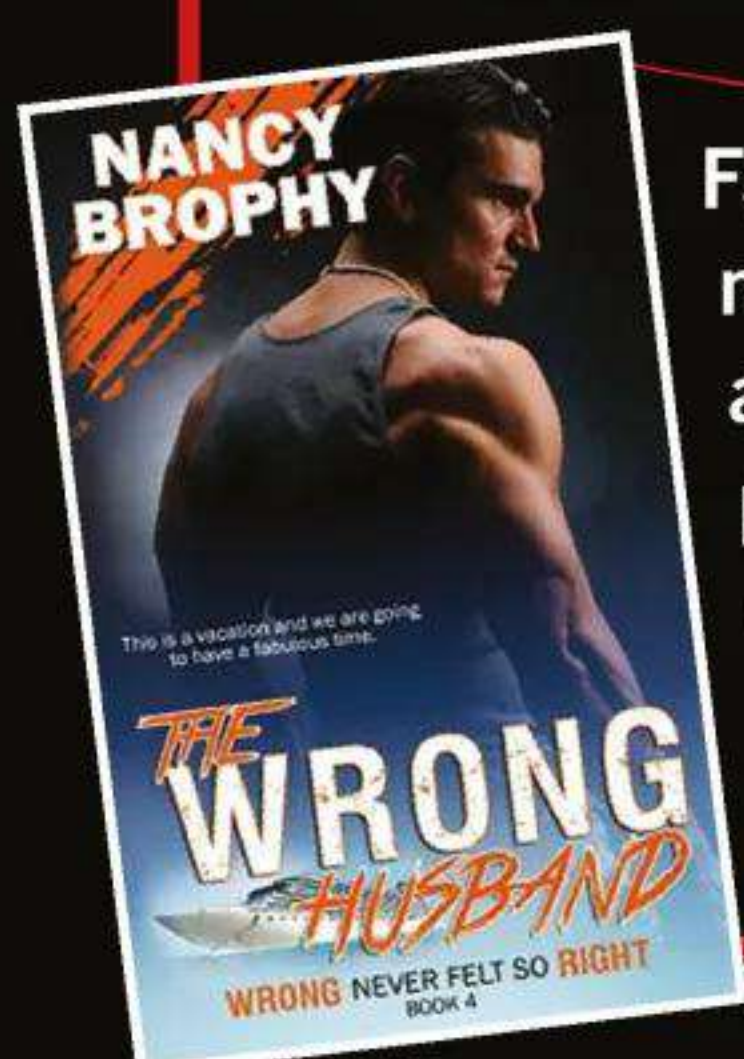
On the morning of 2 June 2018, she got up early and drove to Daniel's workplace ahead of him. She waited until after he arrived, at about 7:20 a.m., then entered the kitchen where she found him alone, filling buckets with ice water. She then drew a pistol and shot her husband of 27 years once through the heart and once

MURDER... THEY WROTE

ALL THREE KILLERS SOLD BOOKS DUE TO THEIR NOTORIETY, BUT ARE THEY ANY GOOD?

THE WRONG HUSBAND

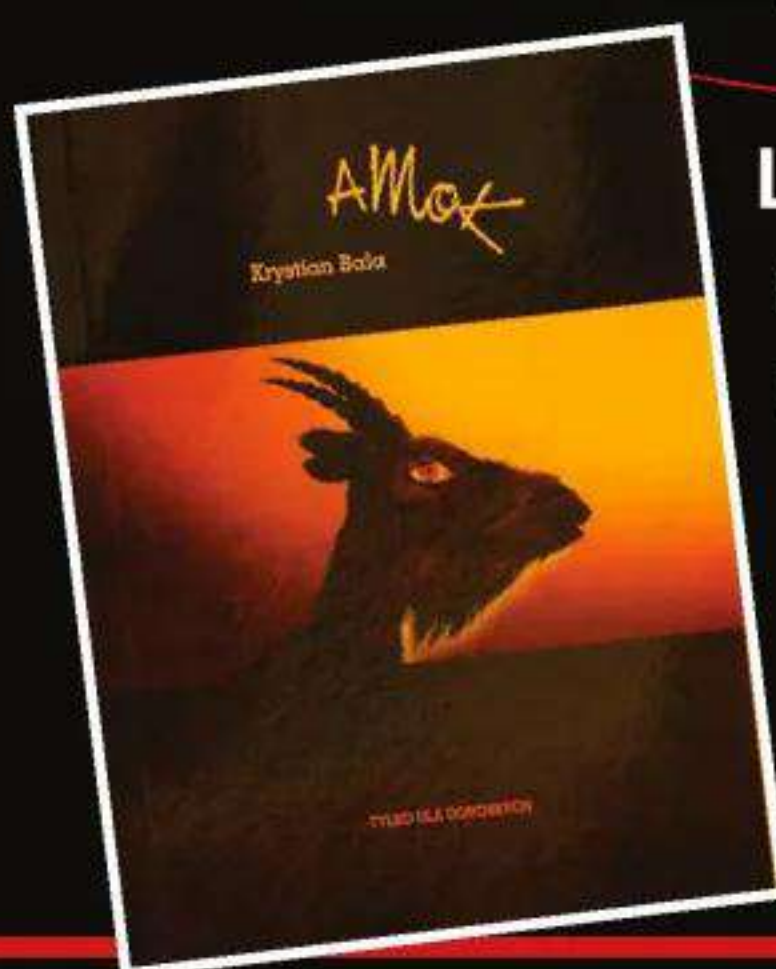
by Nancy Crampton-Brophy
Goodreads rating: 3.22



Fans describe Crampton-Brophy's most reviewed novel as romantic and suspenseful, while critics point to numerous grammatical errors and a plot lifted straight out of the Julia Roberts thriller *Sleeping with the Enemy*.

AMOK

by Krystian Bala
Goodreads rating: 3.66



Less of a novel, more of a manifesto of Bala's warped views, *Amok* is a string of violent sexual fantasies without any point. Unless that point is to express a deep, seething resentment towards women.

FEGEFEUER ODER DIE REISE INS ZUCHTHAUS: ROMAN

by Jack Unterweger
Goodreads rating: 3.22



Unterweger's most famous written work (although it's rumoured he didn't actually write it) was critically acclaimed and even taught in Austrian schools. It's fared considerably less well at the hands of the Goodreads generation.

“HER RECENT PURCHASES OF TWO GUNS AND LIFE INSURANCE WERE ENOUGH TO PERSUADE THE JURY”

through the spine. Students who discovered his body about an hour later described his facial expression as “utterly heartbroken”.

Crampton-Brophy’s essay was not admissible as evidence at her spring 2022 trial. It didn’t need to be. CCTV footage of her coming and going from the crime scene and her recent purchases of two guns and a number of life insurance policies were enough to persuade the jury of her guilt. She’s now serving life with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

But while it wasn’t considered as evidence in her trial, *How to Murder Your Husband* might provide evidence of Crampton-Brophy’s state of mind during the years leading up to her crime. As Kenny puts it, the parallels between Brophy’s essay and her crime indicate that she “had potentially fantasised about killing over time”. Fortunately for investigators, Brophy did not follow her own advice: “The police aren’t stupid. They are looking at you first. So you have to be organized, ruthless and very clever.”

RUNNING AMOK

At about 4 p.m. on 13 November 2000, Dariusz Janiszewski left the office of his small Wrocław (Poland) advertising firm to go and meet a client who had called that day asking about buying posters. He never returned to the office, or to his home. Four weeks later, his body was discovered floating in the River Oder, downriver of Wrocław, by a group of fishermen. His hands were tied, there was a noose around his neck, and he had apparently been tortured and half-starved leading up to his death by drowning. He had been thrown into the river partially strangled but alive.

A murder investigation was launched but quickly went cold. Whoever had killed Janiszewski had been careful not to leave any physical evidence behind. But in the autumn of 2003 the case was placed into the hands of Jacek Wroblewski, an especially determined detective with a knack for cracking open cold cases.

It didn’t take long for Wroblewski to think of something that the original investigation team had not. He asked Janiszewski’s widow if she still had the receipt for the mobile phone he’d been carrying at the time of his disappearance. It was a long shot, but it paid off. The receipt had not been discarded, and once Wroblewski had the receipt, he had the phone’s serial number and was able to discover that, four days after Janiszewski’s

disappearance, the phone had been sold on Allegro (Poland’s answer to eBay) by a user named ChrisB.

Wroblewski managed to identify ChrisB as Krystian Bala, a slight, bespectacled 32-year-old who’d left Poland a few years previously in order to start a new life as a scuba instructor in Asia. Bala wasn’t considered a prime suspect at first, but when Wroblewski discovered that Bala had published a novel, *Amok*, all that changed.

Amok contained several parallels detailing Janiszewski’s murder and had a suspiciously biographical feel to it. *Amok*’s murderous protagonist, Chris, kills one of his victims with a noose. But, of course, Bala could have pinched that idea from news reports on the Janiszewski case. More incriminating was the part of the book where Chris sells evidence of one of his crimes on an online auction site. No one knew about the sale of Janiszewski’s phone until after *Amok* had been published.

Wroblewski waited two years for Bala to return to Poland and promptly arrested him as soon as he did. But detectives only had circumstantial evidence and, unable to elicit a confession from Bala, they were forced to let him go. But he would not be free for long.

Soon after Bala’s release, police uncovered another clue. The calls to Janiszewski’s office had been made using a pay card, and the records of that particular card showed calls to Bala’s family and friends. This drove Wroblewski’s team to dig even harder for a motive, and they eventually persuaded Bala’s estranged wife Stasia



LEFT Bala’s “mild-mannered office worker” appearance was one of the reasons police were initially reluctant to take him seriously as a murder suspect

© Shutterstock, Nancy Crampton-Brophy, Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, Krystian Bala



“ HE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY STARTED KILLING AGAIN, CLAIMING EIGHT MORE VICTIMS BEFORE THE YEAR WAS OUT ”

to admit that she had briefly dated Janiszewski and that Bala had found out.

The volume of evidence was now so overwhelming that the authorities were able to arrest, try and convict Bala. As for why he wrote such a self-incriminating book, Kenny has two theories.

“This could be down to him wishing to relive the experience again, and again,” says Kenny, “or he may have been using the literary medium to psychologically process the crime and to distance himself from the reality of his actions.”

Ironically, *Amok* ultimately very much served to associate Bala with the reality of his actions. A reality he must now reflect on during a 25-year prison sentence.

BELOW Such was Jack Unterweger's public profile in Austria at the time that his murder trial had the look of a red-carpet event

PURGATORY POSTER BOY

In 1976, Johann ‘Jack’ Unterweger was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of 18-year-old sex worker Margaret Schäfer. Unterweger, along with Schäfer's fellow sex worker and supposed friend Barbara Scholz, had kidnapped and robbed Schäfer then taken her to woodland near her home town of Ewersbach. Leaving Scholz in his car, Unterweger took Schäfer into the woods to release her, but he did not do so. Instead, overtaken by a psychopathic rage, he beat her with a steel pipe and strangled her to death with her own bra.

Unterweger was also accused of the murder of another woman, Marcia Horvath, who had been killed using similar methods at around the same time. However, Austrian authorities decided not to pursue Unterweger over Horvath's murder, content that he was already in prison anyway.

But Unterweger would not be in prison forever. Under Austrian law, he was eligible for parole after 15 years. During his time in jail he had written numerous poems, plays and stories – including an autobiography titled *Purgatory* – and his works had been critically acclaimed among Austrian academics and journalists. This widespread popularity made him a shoe-in for parole and, on 23 May 1990, he was released. He was hailed by the Austrian media as a “poster boy” for the rehabilitating prowess of their nation's penal system.

Publicly, Unterweger revelled in this role, making numerous public appearances and even accepting a job as a crime reporter for the ORF (Austria's answer to the BBC). In private, however, he almost immediately started killing again, claiming eight more victims before the year was out – all of whom were strangled with their own bras, just as Margaret Schäfer had been. Unterweger actually reported on some of these killings for ORF, keeping a straight face the entire time.

By the time police had gathered enough evidence to arrest Unterweger, he'd committed three more murders in Los Angeles, where he'd also gone on journalistic



This display at the Vienna Crime Museum provides a snapshot of just how much media attention was once focused on Jack Unterweger

BIO | EMMA KENNY



TV PSYCHOLOGIST

Emma Kenny is one of the UK's best-known experts in criminal psychology and can be seen live on tour all over the UK in her *The Serial Killer Next Door* show and on her YouTube channel, EmmaKennyTV.

PSYCHO ANALYSIS

EXPERT EMMA KENNY BREAKS DOWN THE KEY PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN EACH CASE

REAL CRIME: How much psychological common ground is there among Krystian Bala, Nancy Crampton-Brophy and Jack Unterweger?

EMMA KENNY: All of these killers are likely to be on the psychopathic spectrum. They all engender high levels of arrogance, carry out callous behaviour and exploit their victims to achieve the outcome they desire. Their inability to demonstrate empathy for their victims is another common trait among them.

RC: Serial killers often leave a 'signature'. Could Nancy Crampton-Brophy and Krystian Bala have been doing something similar in their writings?

EK: While organised serial killers in particular enjoy taunting the authorities with signals and symbols, they are not the only kind of killer whose ego becomes their downfall. Nancy

Crampton-Brophy and Krystian Bala believed that they were more capable and intelligent than the authorities and this led to their downfall.

RC: Was Krystian Bala a serial killer in the making?

EK: One can of course speculate that a killer who has already murdered a love interest of an ex, and who is collating data and information on another is exhibiting a disturbing pattern. As prior behaviour is the best indicator of future behaviour, he may well have killed again, and in doing so achieved serial-killer status.

RC: Nancy Crampton-Brophy's infamous essay was not legally relevant to her case, but in what ways might it be psychologically relevant?

EK: When Nancy Crampton-Brophy wrote about 'how to murder a husband',

she may well have been aware of a malevolent side of her nature that she satisfied through her written work and fantasy. However, when she realised that her actual husband was worth more to her dead than alive, she allowed her true nature to manifest.

RC: To what degree do you think the positive media attention he received was part of the thrill for Jack Unterweger?

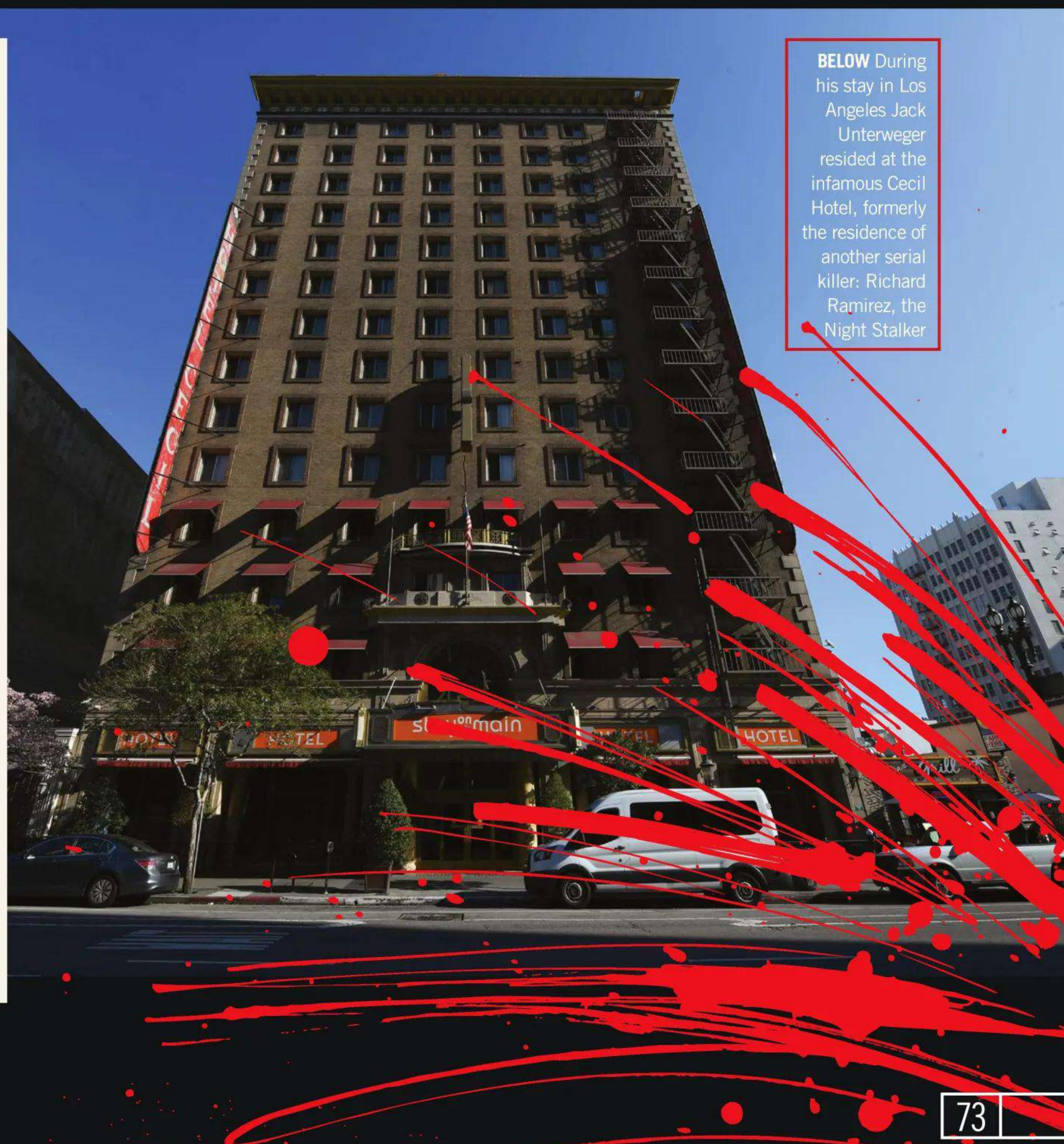
EK: Unterweger is the absolute definition of a narcissistic psychopath who will have revelled in being revered after his initial release from prison. He will have felt untouchable and very much a puppet master of manipulation where the authorities were concerned.

ride-alongs with the LAPD. He was captured in February 1992 and convicted of all 11 murders on 20 June 1994, this time with no possibility of parole. That night he hung himself using the same type of knot that he'd used on all of his victims.

Given how prolifically he murdered following his release, it's tempting to think that Unterweger's public profile fuelled his killing spree, rather than making him more cautious, as might reasonably be expected.

"Certainly, he would have found the attention intoxicating," Kenny admits, "but we cannot know if his appetite for killing increased during this time. Ironically, serial killers tend to cause less destruction when they are busy, or having their egos stroked elsewhere. So, to some degree, whilst he was in the limelight, he may even have killed fewer women."

While it's tempting to jump to the conclusion that all three of these killers were foolish to express themselves so publicly, not one of them was caught because of their public profile. In every case, the killer was apparently fuelling their own egotistical fantasies in their written work. Essentially, they wrote what they wrote for much the same reasons as they killed; they felt that they were better than everyone else, that they deserved to be special, and that their victims didn't even deserve to live. It takes some intelligence to write books, but it doesn't make you special. As Kenny puts it, "For some reason, many people fail to grasp that intelligent people can do truly dreadful things." All three killers were intelligent, all their crimes were dreadful, and all their punishments fully deserved.



BELOW During his stay in Los Angeles Jack Unterweger resided at the infamous Cecil Hotel, formerly the residence of another serial killer: Richard Ramirez, the Night Stalker



BACKPACKER TERROR

'HORROR MOVIE WITH JAMES BOND STUNTS AND A HAPPY ENDING' MIGHT SOUND LIKE THE ELEVATOR PITCH FOR A LOW-BUDGET SLASHER FLICK, BUT THIS NEAR-DEADLY ATTACK ON BACKPACKERS IN SALT CREEK, AUSTRALIA, WAS ALL TOO REAL FOR TWO BRAVE WOMEN

WORDS GAVIN MACKENZIE

Roman Heinze was not supposed to be using Gumtree. The 59-year-old Adelaide resident had been subjected to a court order forbidding him from using it since 2014, when he'd been charged with the indecent assault of two young backpackers he'd met through a classified ad on the site. But he'd been planning a camping trip to the tiny settlement of Salt Creek on Australia's southwest coast and, after his girlfriend had abruptly ended their relationship, he had no one to go with. There were always plenty of backpackers posting ads on Gumtree asking for rides from Adelaide to Melbourne: none of them would know about the court order. And what they didn't know couldn't hurt them.

He'd already responded to a dozen adverts but with no success. Then, during the first week of February 2016,

he spotted a potential opportunity in the form of an enthusiastic post from a young woman searching for a travelling companion.

"Hey, I'm a 23 yo Brazilian! Looking for someone to travel from Adelaide to Melbourne at 9th till 11th... I'm flexible and I can change my plans a bit! Just let me know if you are interested! Cheers!"

It looked like Heinze's luck had changed. The ad has been posted by Beatriz Furtado, who was following a nursing internship at a Sydney hospital but had decided to take some time off to see the rest of Australia.

"Everyone says it's a good experience to travel by yourself," Beatriz told *60 Minutes Australia*. "And I thought, like, I'm gonna be in Australia, I'm gonna meet people on the way, it's a lovely country... just gonna try."

© Alamy



Beatriz had indeed met people along the way, including German backpacker Lena Rabente, 23, who was also backpacking alone and had met Beatriz at around the time the Gumtree ad was posted. The two had immediately hit it off, and it didn't take long for Beatriz to persuade Lena to come with her to Melbourne.

Their plan hit a snag on the evening of 8 February. The driver they'd arranged to go with cancelled after his car broke down. And only one other driver had responded to Beatriz' ad – Roman Heinze.

A LITTLE BIT WEIRD

When the two girls arrived at the arranged meeting point, Heinze was already waiting in his huge silver Nissan SUV. This was supposed to be an eight-hour trip, but the car was packed with camping equipment including two tents, a table and chairs, a gas stove, hammers, knives, rope and a large shovel. Heinze also had condoms and Viagra secreted away.

Video footage and photos taken by Beatriz during the first two hours of the drive paint a picture of an enjoyable, relaxed road trip. The girls are smiling and taking in the scenery

ABOVE LEFT Heinze used a knife to remove Beatriz's bikini before kissing her, licking her, punching her and spitting on her

ABOVE MIDDLE & RIGHT The aftermath of the "blood rain" on the roof of Heinze's car. Lena's head wounds were so severe it's remarkable that she managed to remain conscious

BELOW LEFT Grinning at the camera, Heinze poses with an unidentified woman and child

BELOW RIGHT Perhaps when Heinze claimed that he was "respectful to women" on an online profile he was referring to his choice of ribbed condoms

while Heinze shares titbits of local knowledge. But then he makes an unscheduled stop at Salt Creek's Tea Tree Crossing Campground and, without explanation, starts making camp.

While the Tea Tree Crossing Campground is named as such on a map, it's nothing more than a patch of sand dunes among a great many other mounds of sand. There are no facilities of any kind and rarely any other campers. Heinze and his passengers had it all to themselves. Lena hadn't been expecting an overnight camping trip and asked Beatriz if she thought Heinze was alright.

"Oh, he's a little bit weird," Beatriz replied, "But I think it's gonna be OK."

During their *60 Minutes* interview both girls smile at the dark irony of this conversation. It was not going to be OK.

Once camp was set up, Lena took a nap in the back of the car while Beatriz helped Heinze prepare some food on the gas stove. Before long, Heinze told Beatriz he had seen some kangaroo prints and suggested they go looking for kangaroos among the dunes. Beatriz figured why not and followed him away from the camp. He was carrying a knife, a hammer and some ropes. All she had on her was a bikini.

LENA VS GOLIATH

Upon finding no kangaroos Beatriz insisted on turning back, but as soon as she turned around Heinze grabbed her from behind and forced her to the ground. When he tried to tie her wrists and ankles she grabbed the ropes and threw them away, infuriating her assailant.

"Either you make it easy," Heinze growled, "Or I'm gonna break your arm."

"It wasn't the right moment to piss him off," Beatriz told *60 Minutes*.



INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

TRAGEDY WAS ONLY JUST AVOIDED WHEN LIFE IMITATED ART FOR LENA AND BEATRIZ

Wolf Creek is a 2005 horror film loosely based on the crimes of Ivan Milat, Bradley Murdoch and others like them. Lena Rabente had actually watched it with a friend just a month prior to her ill-fated road trip with Roman Heinze. As she told *60 Minutes*, her reaction to the movie was that it was a little far-fetched,

"This is horrible, but it's not real," she said. "This will never, ever happen to anyone. Not like this."

And then, of course, it did happen. To her. But few horror movie "scream queens" fight back with the strength, courage and determination shown by Lena and Beatriz, and thankfully their story came to a much happier ending than *Wolf Creek*.

“ BEATRIZ SCREAMED LENA’S NAME AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS. HEINZE THREW HER TO THE GROUND AND STARTED PUNCHING HER ”

Heinze cut the bikini from her body and began trying to kiss and lick her. When she tried to persuade him that this was a bad idea, he repeatedly punched her and spat on her to shut her up. But when she told him he could do whatever he wanted if he took her back to the camp he agreed, and they slowly started heading back.

When they were close to the camp, Heinze had a change of heart and turned around. Realising this was her only chance, Beatriz screamed Lena's name at the top of her lungs. This angered Heinze, who threw her to the ground and started punching her again, but it also alerted Lena, who immediately came running and was shocked to find her

BELOW LEFT It's chilling to think that Heinze had packed this large shovel for the trip. Had he planned to bury Lena and Beatriz among the dunes?

BELOW RIGHT At one point Heinze actually threw Lena a towel with which to stem her wounds. It was soaked in blood within minutes

friend bound and naked with a crazed Heinze standing over her. Almost immediately Lena's shock gave way to anger.

Despite being well under average height, she squared up to the 6' 6" Heinze and yelled at him to let Beatriz go. Heinze's response was sinister: "I just wanted to try her."

Lena ran back to the car to get her phone and call for help, telling Heinze she just wanted to get her bag and then leave. Heinze pursued her, sneering, "Yeah, get your fucking bag."

But as she leaned into the backseat to retrieve it Heinze hit her on the back of the head with his hammer. The blow came down with such force, Lena thought she was finished. "I thought, 'That's the end.'"

BLOOD RAIN

But it wasn't the end. Lena, with blood now pouring from her head, fought back, trying to wrest the hammer from Heinze's grip. She didn't get the hammer but, after three more blows



All images: © SA Police

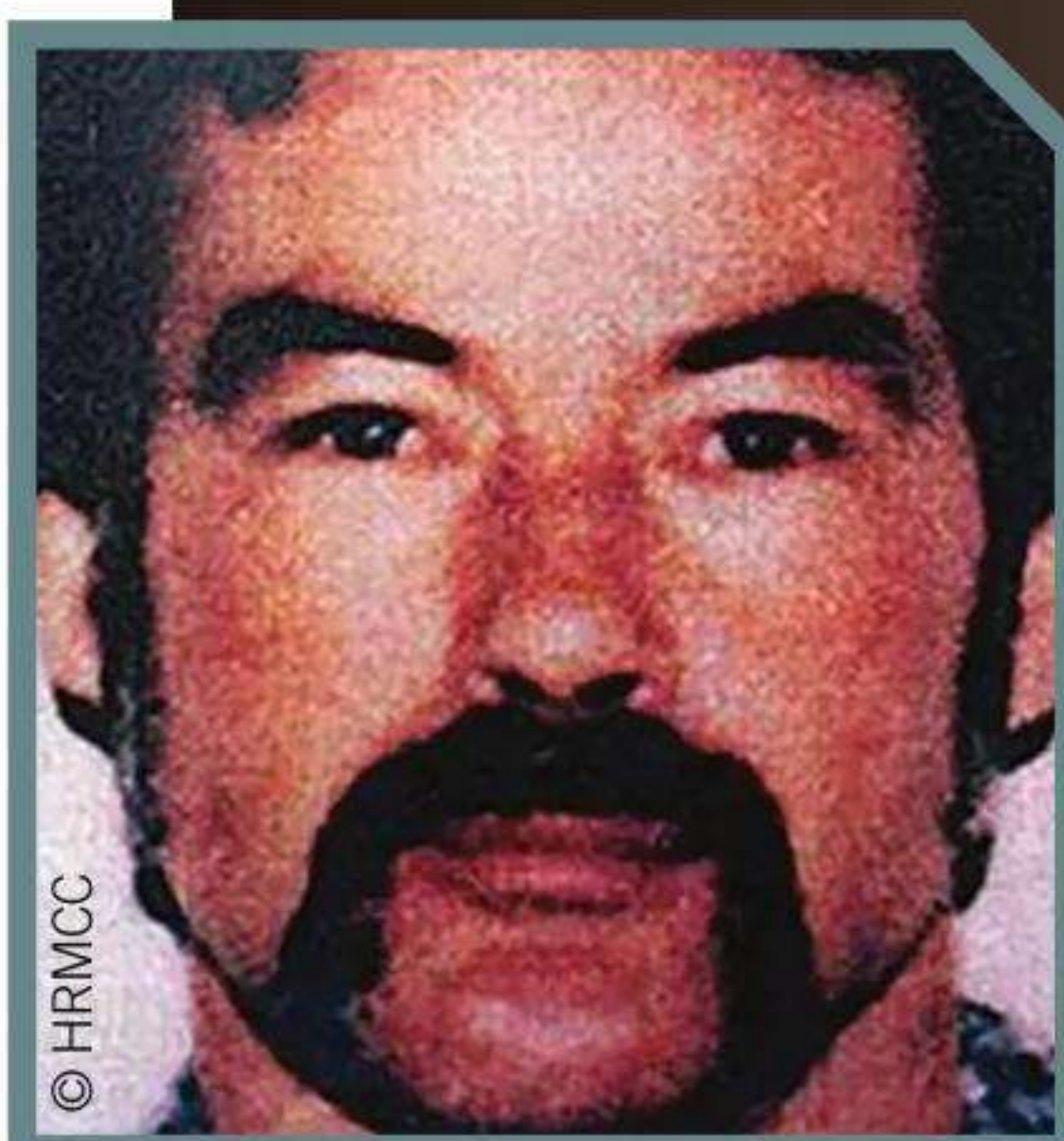
ATTACKS IN THE OUTBACK

WHILE BACKPACKING AROUND AUSTRALIA IS STATISTICALLY EXTREMELY SAFE, ROMAN HEINZE WASN'T THE FIRST TO PERPETRATE VIOLENT ATTACKS ON TRAVELLERS DOWN UNDER



ABOVE The sturdy radio aerials on the front of Heinze's car provided Lena with a lifeline, as she was able to use them to pull herself up onto the roof

INSET Heinze chased Lena through the dunes for almost a kilometre, using the bull bars of his car to knock her down at least four times

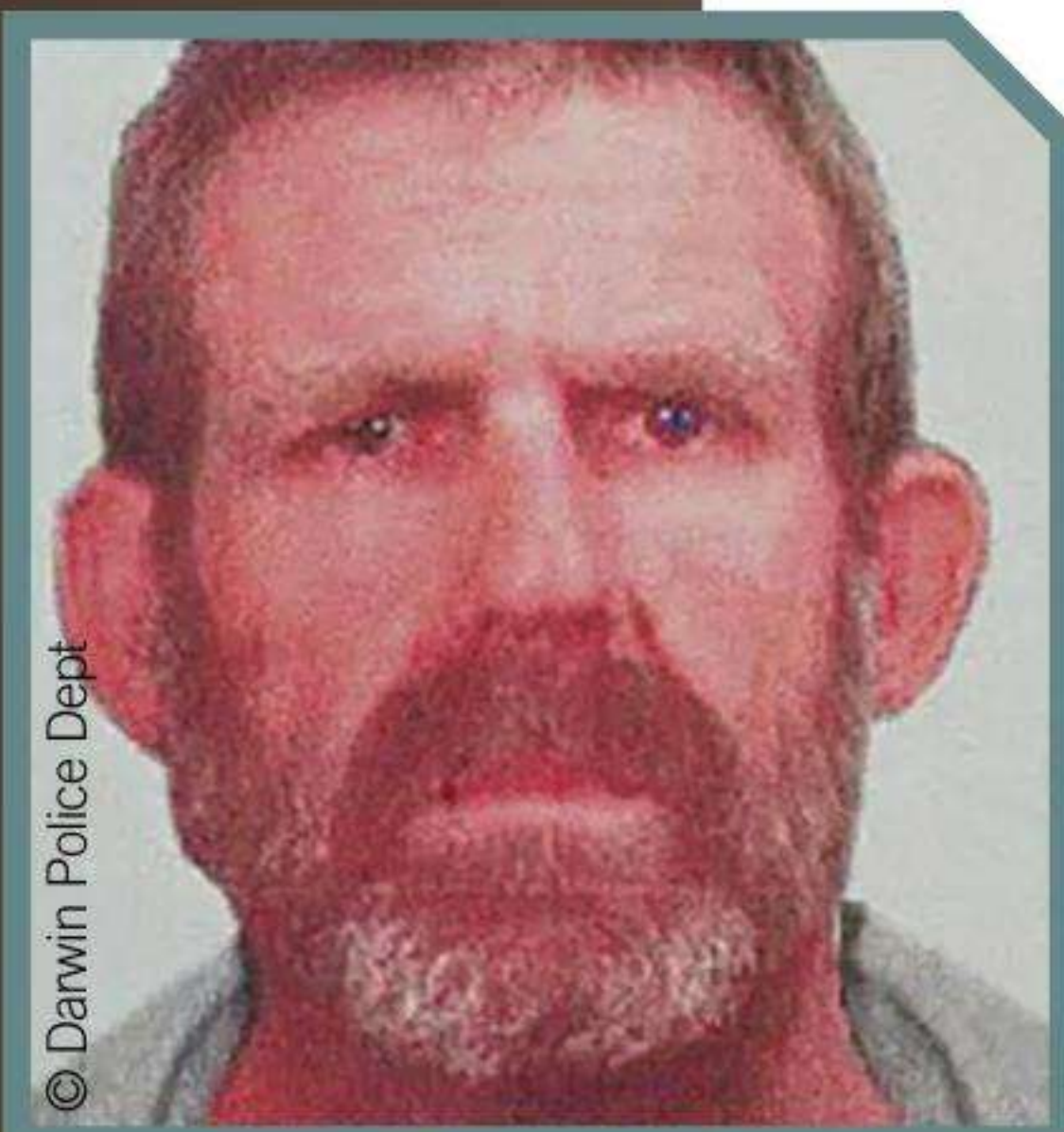


IVAN MILAT

Australia's most infamous serial killer was convicted of the "Backpacker Murders". Milat killed seven backpackers in the Belanglo State Forest, New South Wales, between 1989 and 1992 but is suspected to have claimed other victims throughout Australia.

BRADLEY MURDOCH

On 14 July 2001, Murdoch flagged down British backpackers Peter Falconio and Joanne Lees and told them there was something wrong with their camper van. He promptly shot Falconio dead and attempted to kidnap Lees, whose escape led to Murdoch's arrest and life sentence.



BELOW LEFT In phone footage of Heinze's arrest, the arresting officer can be heard warning him, "If you kick me, I'm gonna belt ya, alright?"

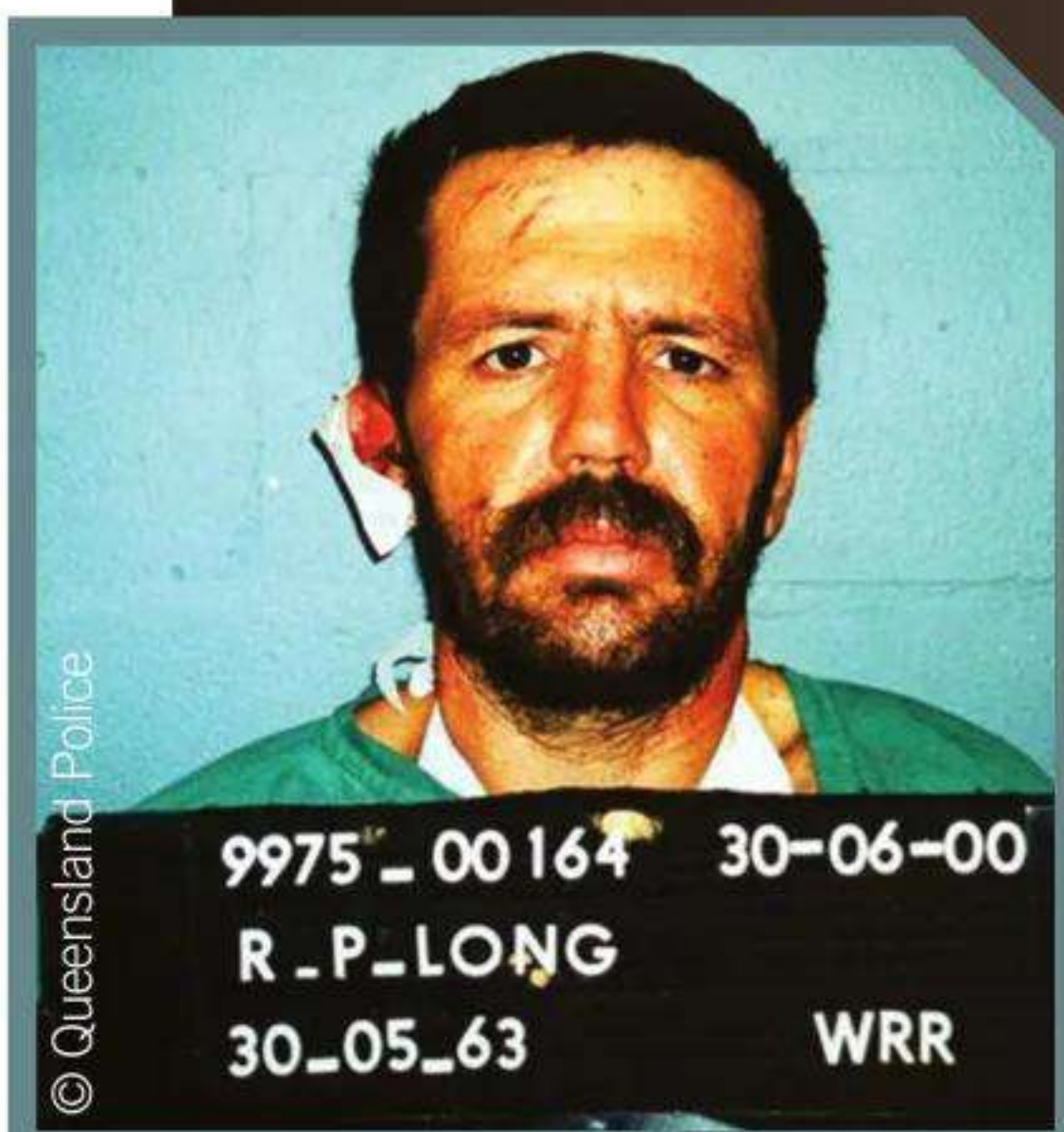
BELOW RIGHT Heinze's campsite. It doesn't require much imagination to work out what he had hoped to do to the two girls

from Heinze and a brief chase along the beach, she did manage to escape.

Lena wasn't going to leave without Beatriz, and she zigzagged all over the beach until she found and untied her. Intuitively they split up, with Beatriz running into the dunes while Lena ran along the shore.

Heinze, meanwhile, had returned to his car and was driving it back along the beach, intent on preventing the girls from getting away. Beatriz was hiding out of sight in the dunes but Lena was on the open sands, and it wasn't long before Heinze caught up to her.

Lena ran in circles around the dunes with Heinze pursuing her and knocking her down with his car whenever he got the chance. He ran her down four times, but every time she got back up. She knew she couldn't keep going like this for much longer, so after the fourth knockdown she made a daring decision. Instead of trying to flee, she ran straight at the front



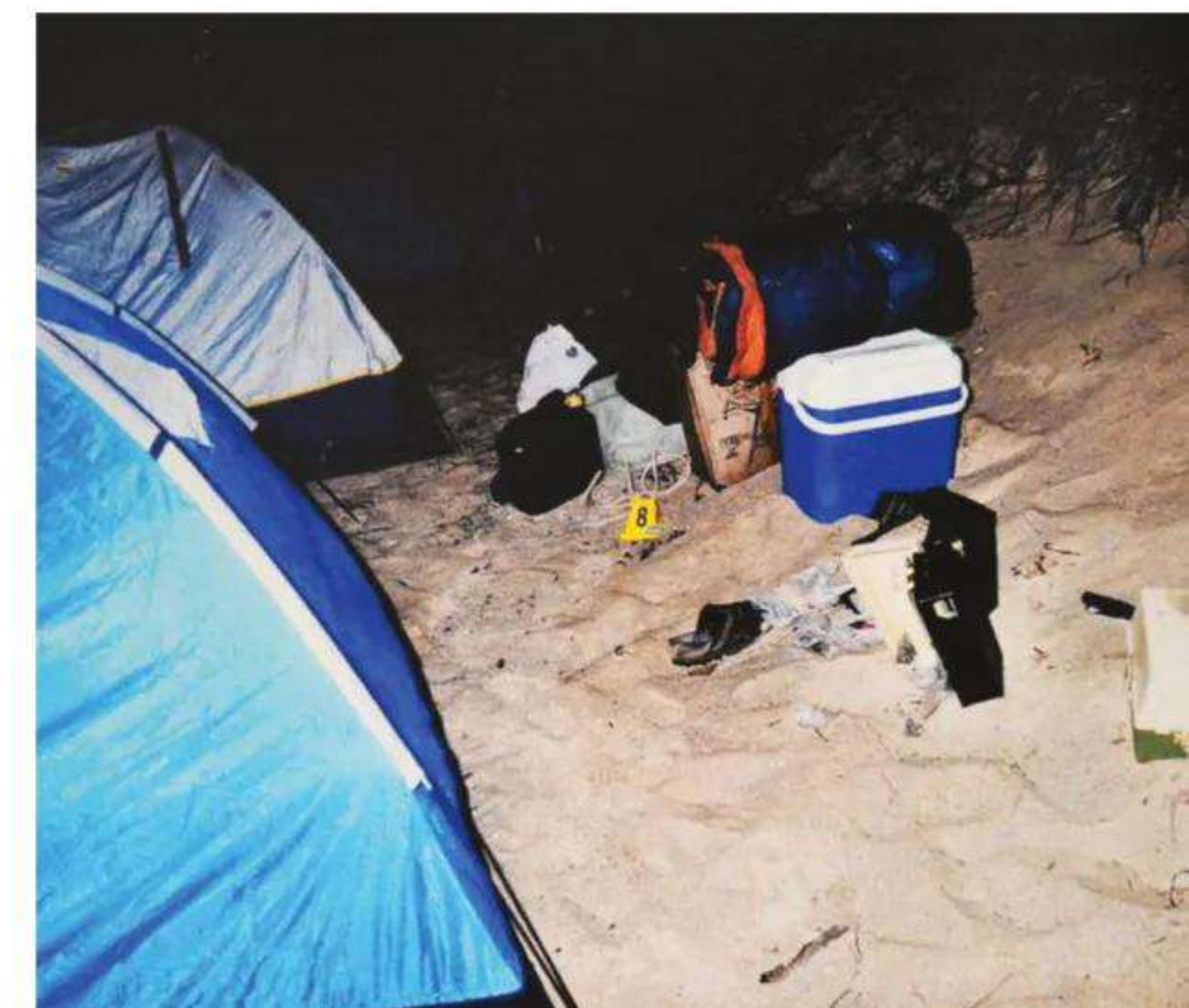
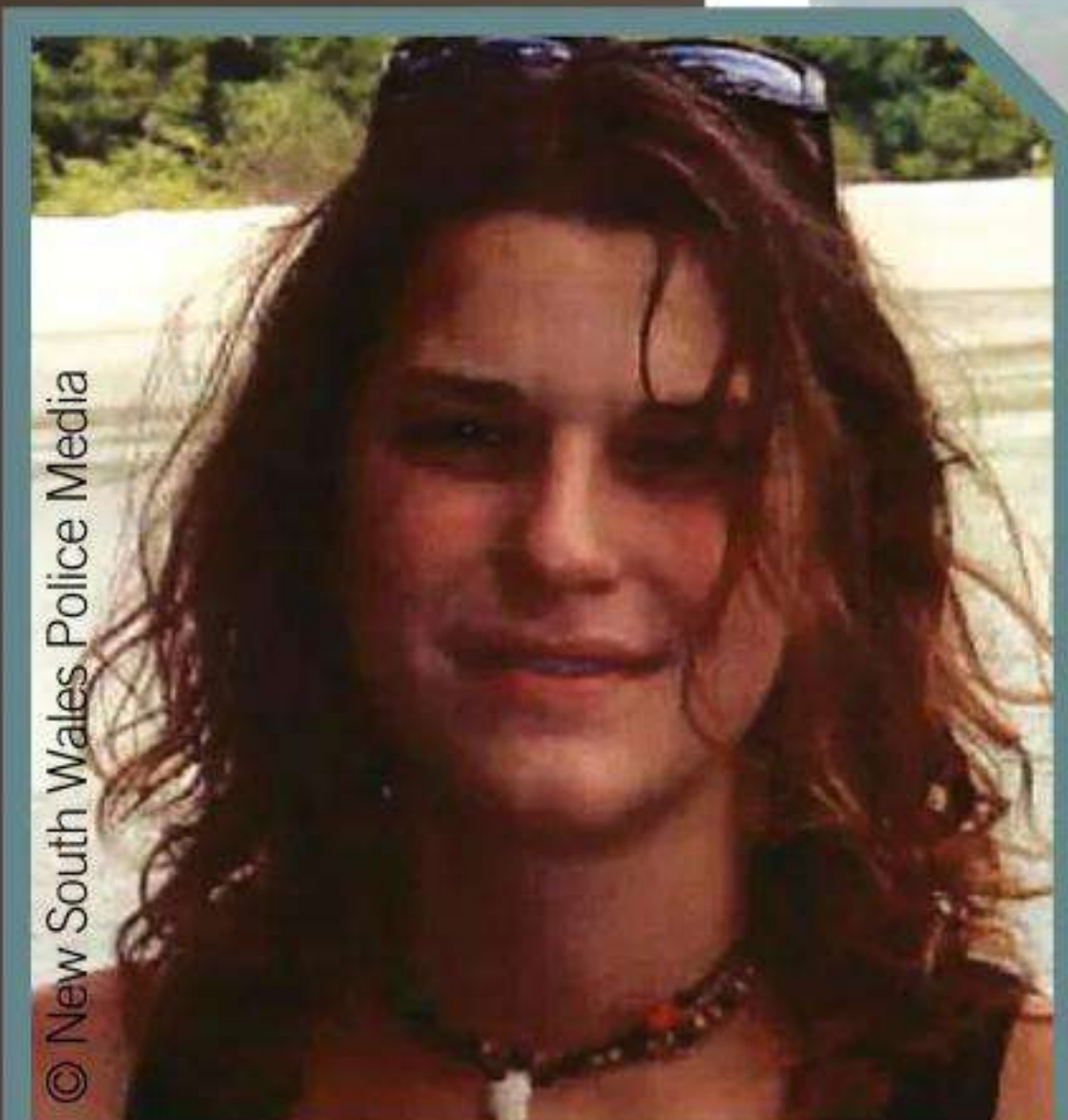
ROBERT LONG

On 23 June 2000, Long deliberately started a fire in the recreation room of the Palace Backpackers Hostel in Childers, Queensland. Of the 88 people inside the building at the time, 15 sadly lost their lives in the resulting blaze.

“ LENA RAN AROUND THE DUNES WITH HEINZE PURSUING HER AND KNOCKING HER DOWN WITH HIS CAR WHEN HE GOT THE CHANCE ”

KINDERGARTEN KILLER

No arrests were made in connection with the 2005 killing of German kindergarten teacher Simone Strobel until 2022, when warrants were issued for all three of the friends she'd been backpacking with. However, all charges were then abruptly dropped and the case remains open.





of the car, leapt onto the bonnet and scrambled up to the roof. For a moment this was no longer a scene from a horror movie.

“I felt a bit like in a movie,” Lena told *60 Minutes*, “I felt like James Bond.”

Heinze got out of the car and tried to get Lena down, swiping at her with his hammer while she tried to land kicks to his face. Realising he was in a stalemate, Heinze got back in the car and sped along the beach, weaving from side to side in an attempt to shake Lena off. But she held on to the roof rack for dear life, blood pouring everywhere in what she described as a “blood rain”.

STRONGER THAN EVER

Beatriz, meanwhile, heard a car approaching and, realising it was not Heinze, ran out in front of it screaming and waving. The occupants, three young fishermen, let her in and told her they’d take her to safety, but Beatriz insisted they go straight back to the beach to find Lena.

Unable to shake her off the roof of the car, Heinze stopped, got out and once again tried using persuasion to get Lena down. This time she agreed to get down, but only if he threw away all of his weapons, which he did. She then got in the car, and they drove off down the beach again.

Heinze took the risk of driving close to another group of young fishermen on the beach, one of whom noticed a blood-soaked Lena leaning out of the window “flapping” her arm. The men got in their own car and gave chase. Soon they’d cornered Heinze in the dunes, and when he stopped Lena got out and ran towards the group.

“She looked like she had dark skin,” one of the men told 7NEWS Melbourne. “But when she got closer, we realised it was just dried blood mixed with fresh blood.”

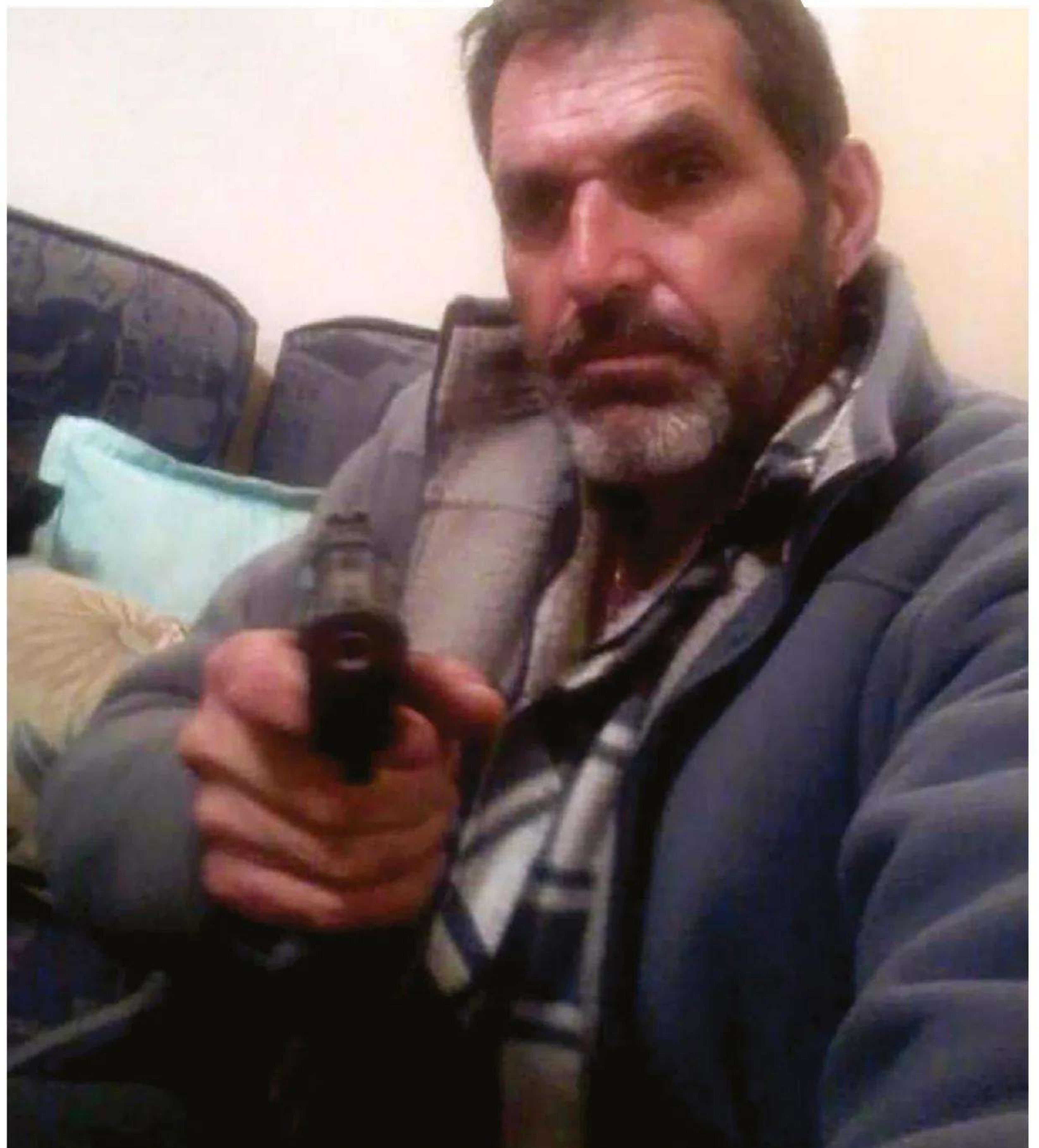
Heinze drove off again, but by now police had been alerted and it didn’t take long to find him. His car had got stuck in the sand another kilometre further down the beach, and police discovered him sitting there in the driver’s seat. He made no attempt to resist arrest.

Ultimately, Heinze was sentenced to 22 years and four months in prison for a variety of charges related to the incident including kidnapping, indecent assault, causing harm to both girls and for endangering Lena’s life. Judge Trish Kelly described Heinze as an “enraged and somewhat primitive man” with “perverted sexual fantasies and desires”, one who, while appearing to be a “docile and at times rather pathetic character in the dock”, was clearly a man “with a very strong anger management issue”. She also praised Lena and Beatriz, reminding Heinze that “both of them were courageous enough and intelligent enough to outwit and outsmart you at every step”.

Lena herself had a few choice words for Heinze too.

“I want you to know, Roman, that you could not defeat me,” she said, addressing her attacker in court. “You could not break me... You could not make me into a victim because I’m a survivor. This only has made me stronger. I am very angry, but at the same time, I feel pity for you.”

Powerful words from a woman who risked her own life to save a friend she’d known for only a few days – not just once but twice. Her actions just go to show that not all heroes wear capes. Some of them wear backpacks.



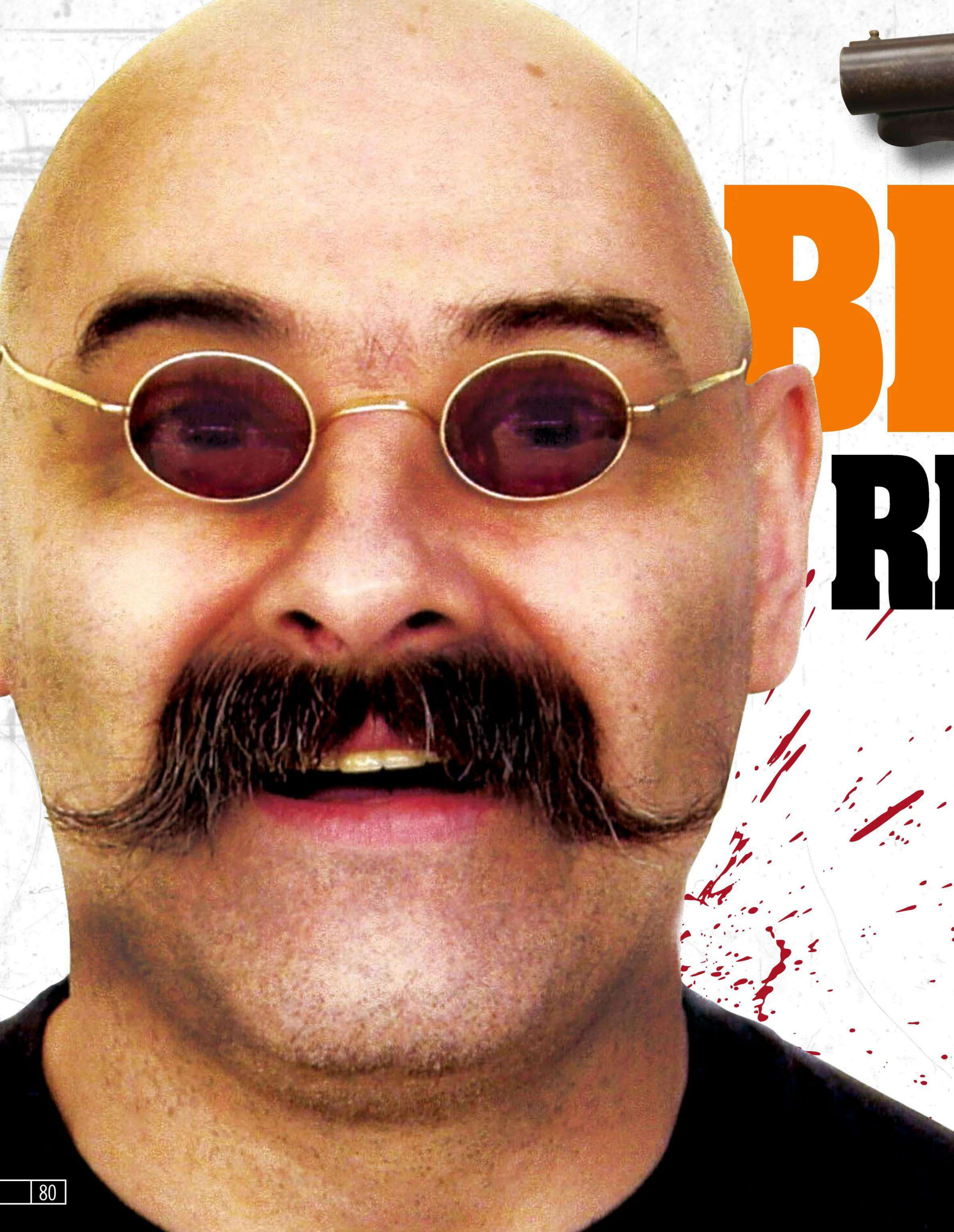
ABOVE A penchant for violence: Heinze poses with a gun in a social media post

RIGHT Tools of terror: these hammers were found inside Heinze’s vehicle, the same weapon of choice that he used on Lena, who somehow fought back despite her wounds

BELOW Police found copious amounts of rope inside Heinze’s SUV, further proof of the level of planning he’d put into his awful crimes, actions that he clearly thought he could get away with



All images: © SA Police





BRONSON REFORMED DERANGED?

AFTER HALF A CENTURY OF FIGHTING THE SYSTEM, CHARLES BRONSON, A NOTORIOUSLY VIOLENT AND BIZARRE INMATE, LOOKS SET FOR RELEASE. FOR SOME THIS IS TOO SOON. FOR OTHERS, THOUGH, IT'S LONG OVERDUE

WORDS GAVIN MACKENZIE

"I WILL BITE YOUR
FUCKING NOSE OFF AND
GOUGE YOUR EYES OUT!"

These are the words Charles Bronson snarled into the face of Wakefield Prison governor Mark Docherty as he landed on top of him during what was supposed to be a routine welfare meeting. Bronson – who legally changed his name to Charles Salvador in 2014 but is still best known as the namesake of the *Death Wish* film star, having been given the name by a bare-knuckle boxing promoter – later told a judge and jury at Leeds Crown Court that “bite your fucking nose off” had been a mere figure of speech, and that he had actually meant to whisper, “Where’s my wife’s photos?” in Docherty’s ear while gently bear-hugging him. “Since when is it a crime to hug your fellow man?” Bronson asked the jury. “There is not enough man hugs in this insane world.”

All images: © Alamy, Shutterstock



In 2013, Paula Williamson and this lookalike of her husband-to-be were among campaigners who delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street requesting Bronson's release

As attendees of Bronson's attempted grievous bodily harm trial stifled giggles, the hulking inmate explained that as he had approached Docherty he had tripped and fallen on top of the startled governor. Discombobulated by the unexpected fall, Bronson had fluffed his lines, shouting the aforementioned threat and adding, "You can fuck with me but you can never fuck with my mother!" for good measure.

It sounds like the kind of laughable "I never touched him" excuse a playground bully would make, but the jury accepted it and, for the first time in his life, Bronson found himself on the receiving end of a unanimous not guilty verdict.

Bronson (defending himself in court having sacked his legal team) further explained that he was upset at the time of the meeting because the prison had broken its promise to allow his wedding photos to be sent to friends and family. He also pointed out that if he had really intended to cause bodily harm to Docherty then he would have had no difficulty doing so. "In three seconds, I could hit a man ten times in the face," Bronson boasted to the court.

This may have been a slight exaggeration, but it's certainly true that Bronson's well-documented life story is full of instances in which he proved more than capable of hurting whoever he wanted. Bronson told the court that he could understand why prison staff over-reacted to the incident and charges were pressed. But it seems as if his reputation as "the most violent prisoner in Britain" did him a favour on this occasion. After all, if the notorious Charles Bronson had really intended to bite someone's nose off and gouge out their eyes, surely he would have actually done it. "I can assure you I have never bitten anyone's nose off in my life," he told the jury. "Plus, I'm a vegetarian."

Bronson regards the November 2018 verdict as one of several important turning points in his life and as an

ABOVE In 1999, Bronson's mother Eira Peterson told the *Daily Mirror* that her son was "just a big softie" who "only acts the hardman"

important step towards his eventual release, having now spent almost half a century behind bars. He considers himself reformed, or "born again" as he puts it, and believes there would no longer be any risk in allowing him to walk free among the rest of the British public.

Indeed, since 1999 Bronson has been involved in very few incidents of violence or disruption, which is in stark contrast to the first half of his life of incarceration, during which he was in trouble on countless occasions.

As Bronson's solicitor Dean Kingham told Sky News in 2022, "historically, whilst there was a risk to the public, it's never been as severe as towards prison staff and governors".

Certainly, of the almost 50 years Bronson has spent in prison, only 19 of them were served as punishment for crimes committed on the outside, all of which were robberies during which no one was seriously hurt. Bronson's problem has always been that he's unable to resist fighting a system he cannot beat.

"The reason I have spent so long in prison is because I have rebelled against the system," Bronson told the *Yorkshire Post* in 2019, "but the system doesn't play by normal rules, so in the end you can't win."

THROUGH THE ROOF

Bronson's rebellions against the prison system have been many and varied. He was causing trouble almost as soon as his first prison stretch began in 1974, launching various unprovoked attacks on prison guards and property and making attempts at both suicide and escape. He also committed numerous violent acts that can't be described as 'fighting the system' given that they were inflicted on fellow inmates. While Bronson has never actually killed anyone, he came very close on two occasions.

During a spell at Rampton Hospital, Bronson attempted to strangle child killer and rapist John White with his tie before staff intervened in the nick of time.

"His whole body was shaking like he was having a fit," Bronson wrote in his 2000 autobiography. "I heard the death rattle. His face had turned blue, his eyes were

"HIS REPUTATION DID HIM A FAVOUR ON THIS OCCASION"

THE ART OF VIOLENCE

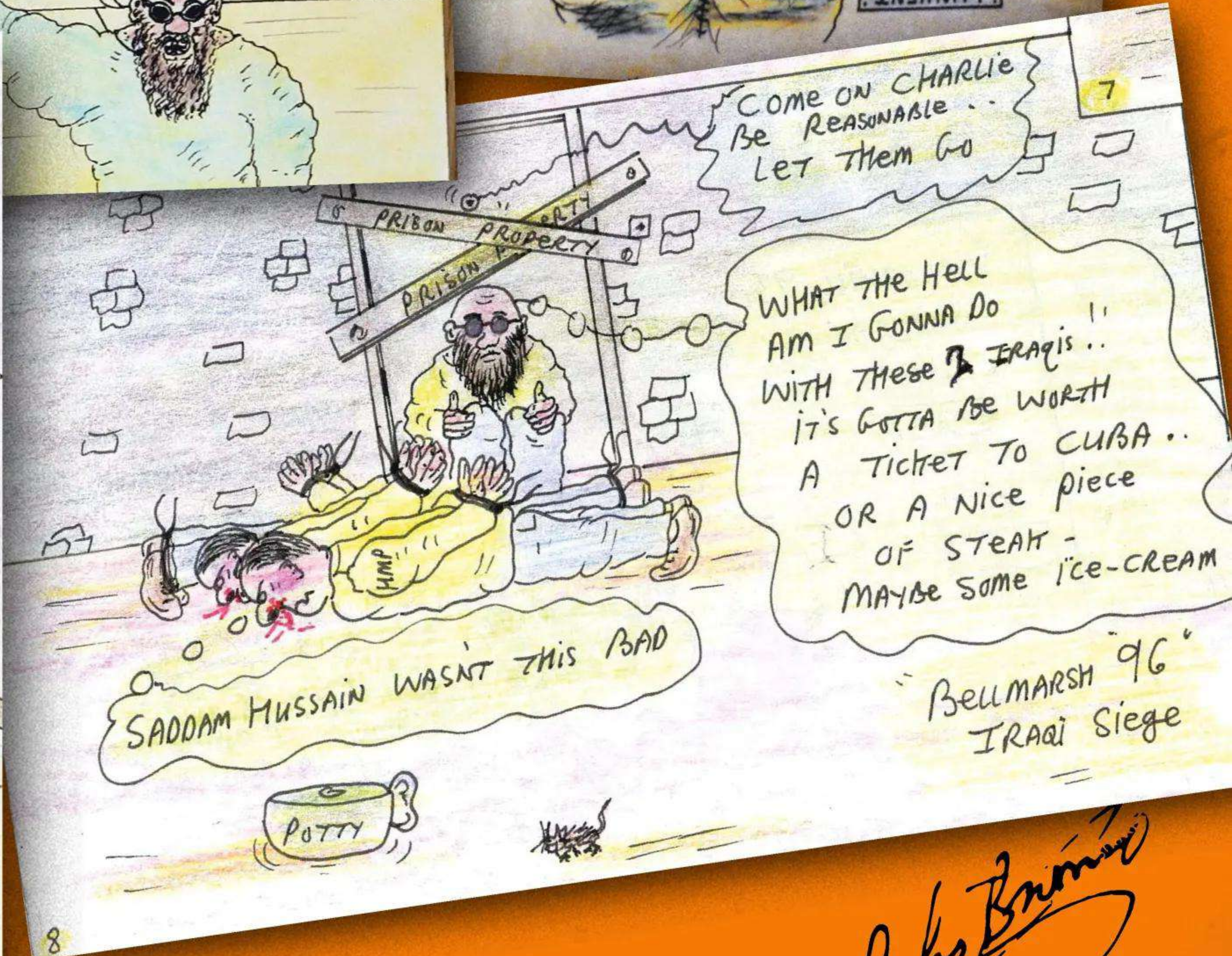
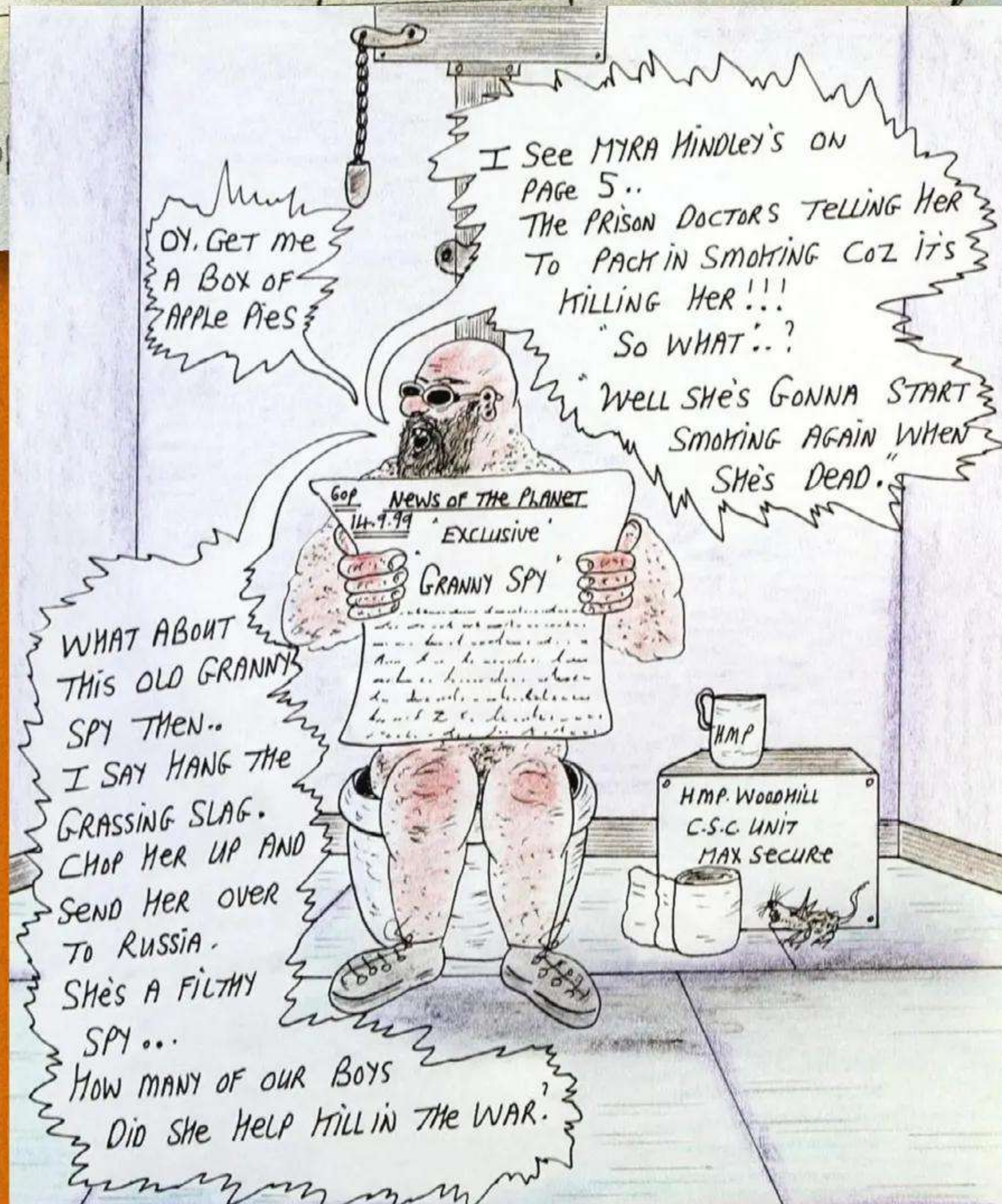
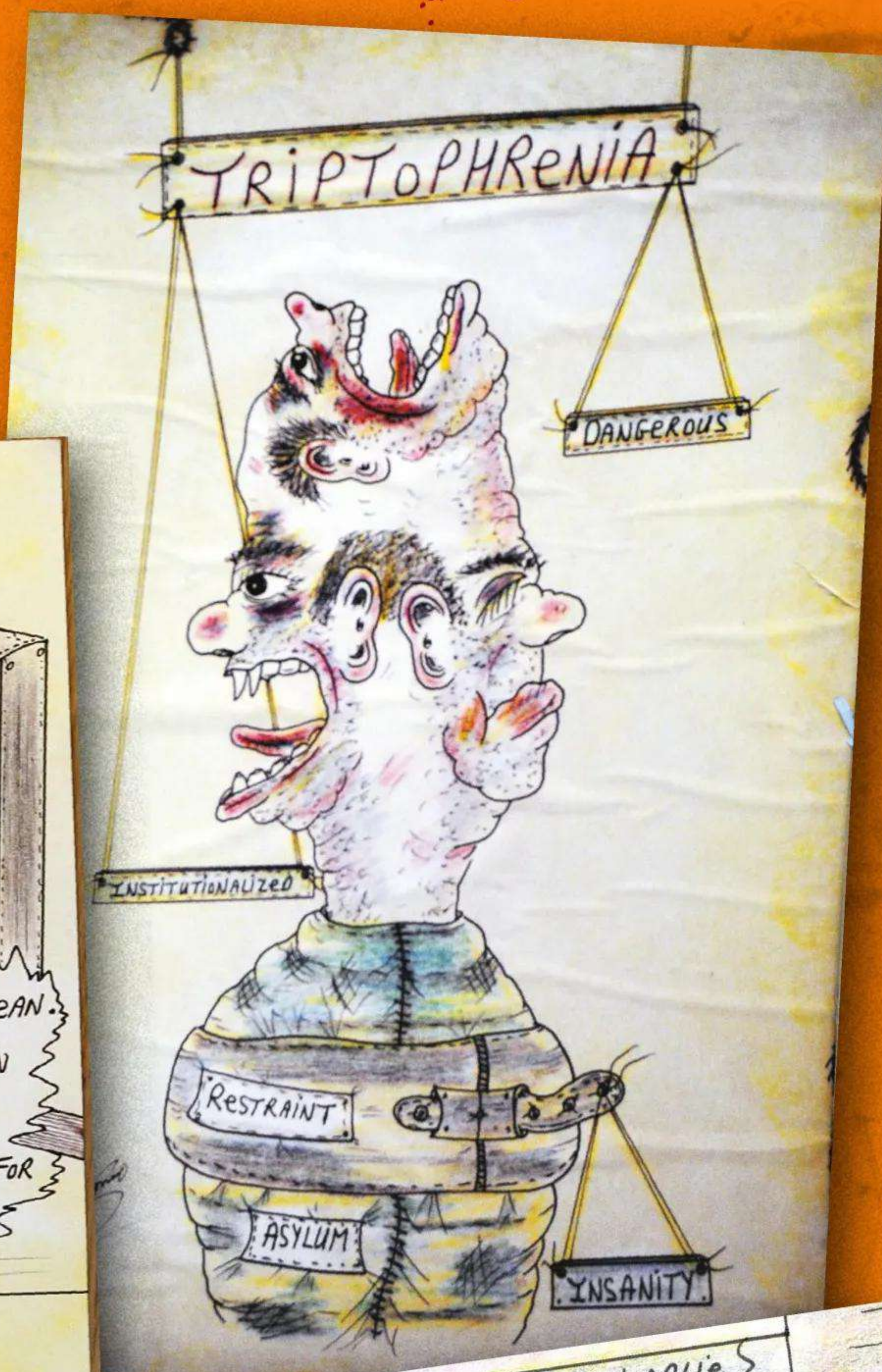
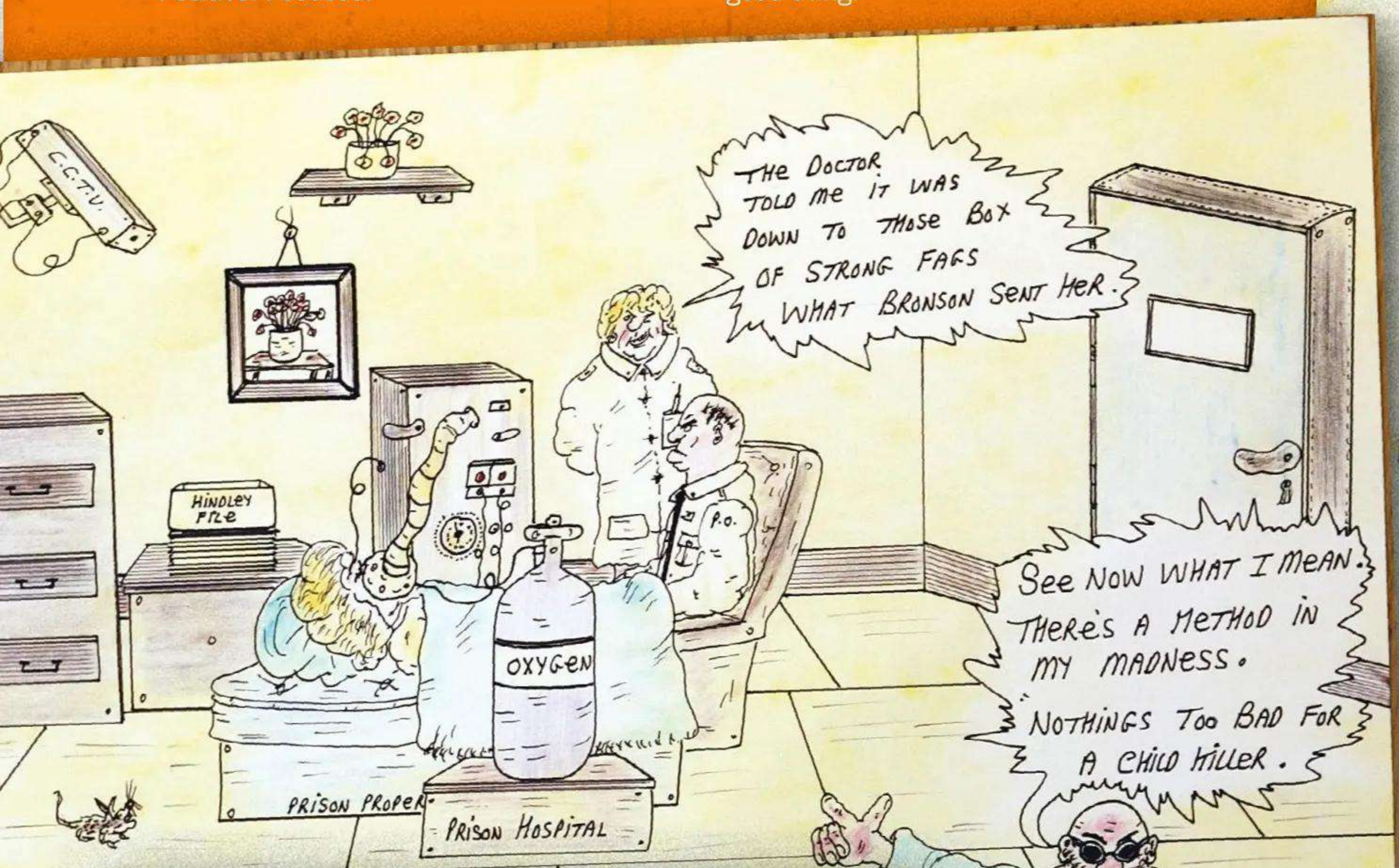
CHARLES BRONSON HAS WON MORE PRISON AWARDS FOR HIS ART THAN ANY OTHER INMATE

Bronson was encouraged to take up art by two prison officers at Wakefield Prison. While it didn't bring about an immediate reduction in his violent behaviour, Bronson believes it's been key to his rehabilitation.

"I've always been a destructive person all my life," he admitted to the *Yorkshire Post*. "But since I've found art, I'm now creative. Positive. Focused."

His cartoons range from depictions of some of the more famous 'hijinks' he's got up to behind bars to surrealist expressions of his state of mind.

It certainly looks as if Bronson is using art to express many of the negative emotions that he's previously typically expressed through violence, and that can only be a good thing.



Charles Bronson

THE TRANSFER LIST

BRONSON SAYS HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING DECATEGORYED SO THAT HE CAN SEE PRISONS HE'S NEVER BEEN TO, BUT HE'S BEEN TO ALMOST ALL OF THEM ALREADY...

Bronson was imprisoned for the first time in 1968, aged just 16. He was held on remand at Risley Prison on charges of criminal damage after smashing some parked cars during an argument.

After receiving a seven-year sentence for armed robbery in 1974, Bronson would spend the rest of the 1970s in various prisons, including Walton, Hull, Armley, Wakefield, Wandsworth, Parkhurst, and Broadmoor.

Due to his violent behaviour, Bronson's seven-year sentence would be extended to 1987, by which time he had added several more prisons to his list, including Ashworth Hospital, Wormwood Scrubs, Winchester and Leicester.

After just 69 days of freedom, Bronson was back behind bars in January 1988. During the rest of the 1980s he would return to various previous prisons, as well as adding Brixton, Full Sutton, Durham, Long Lartin, Bristol, Birmingham and Frankland to the list.

Bronson spent the early 1990s bouncing between prisons – mainly Gartree, Frankland, and Parkhurst – and behaving relatively well, leading to his early release in November 1992.



bulging and his tongue hung down on his chin. This monster was on his way out and I felt so happy. He was getting off lightly for what he had done to that little girl."

But White was resuscitated, and Bronson's request to be charged with attempted murder was rejected on the grounds that he was too disturbed to stand trial.

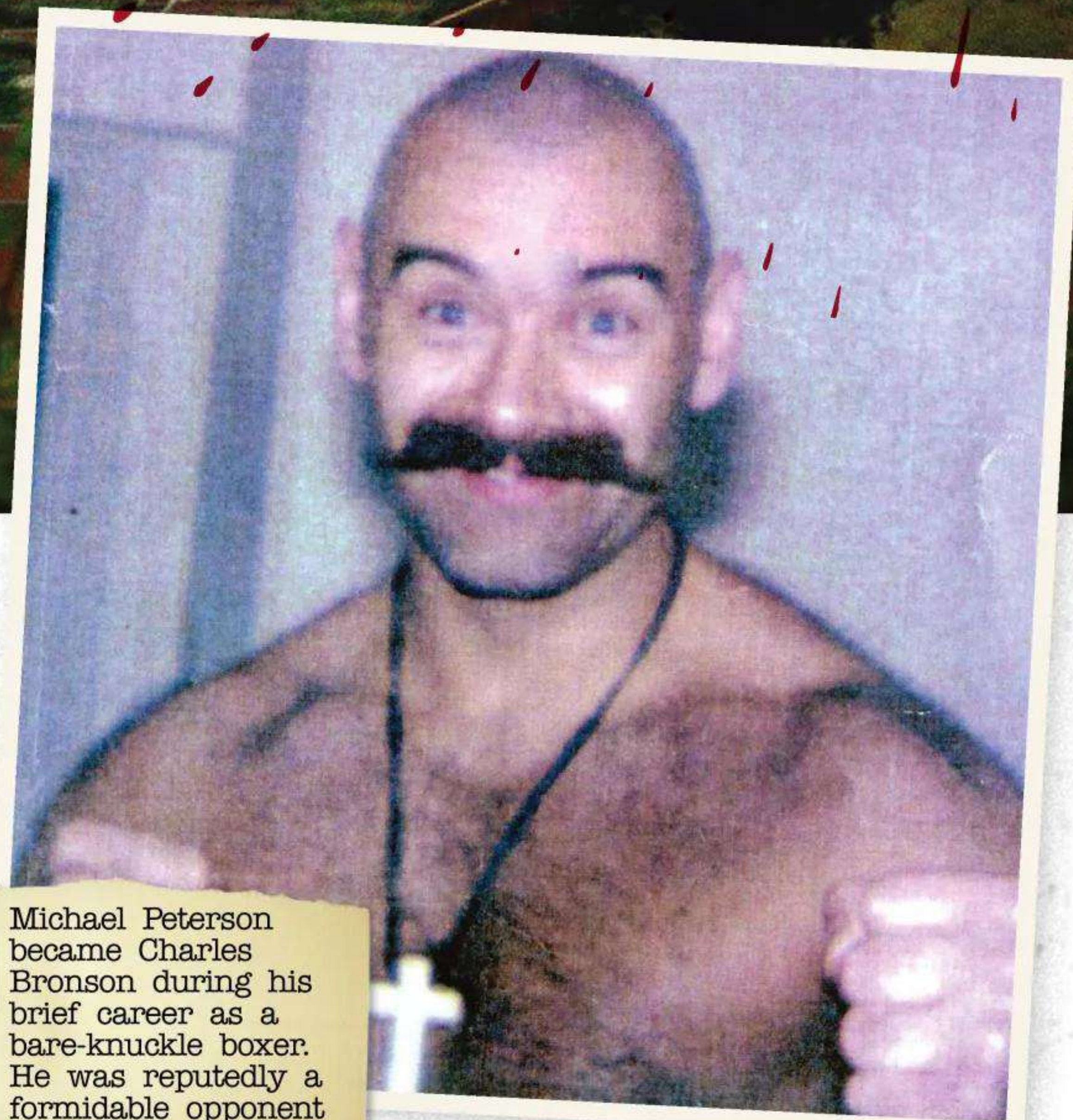
Bronson subsequently launched a similar attack on Broadmoor inmate Gordon Robinson, but on that occasion the victim owed his survival to Bronson's tie, which snapped as Bronson tightened it around his neck.

It wasn't until 1982 that Bronson hit upon an idea that, even if it didn't succeed in overturning the prison system, would at least attract the attention of the wider public. Having escaped Broadmoor Hospital but only getting as far as the roof, he turned his failed escape attempt into a semi-successful rooftop protest, if 'successful' means causing hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of damage to the roof and receiving some attention from the press and public. This would be the first of nine rooftop protests for Bronson, who said on the *Anything Goes* podcast, "I spent more time on Broadmoor's roof than the fucking pigeons."

Bronson sometimes made demands during his rooftop protests, and sometimes he just threw the tiles around for the hell of it, but either way his demands were never met. However, in 1984 he found a strategy that did, on at least one occasion, get him his own way. When his third attempt to get out of Broadmoor via the roof failed, he tried going on hunger strike instead. Bronson managed 18 days without food, eventually forcing the prison authorities to cave to his demands and, after five years at Broadmoor (an unusually long stint for Bronson), he was transferred to Ashworth Hospital.

A CHOPPA AND A CUPPA

During his second stretch of prison time, which started in 1988, Bronson developed a new habit that would get him into serious trouble on numerous occasions: taking hostages. To date, Bronson has taken 11 hostages across nine separate 'sieges', the first of which was the deputy governor of Frankland Prison during the early 1990s. He managed to escape an increase to his sentence on



Michael Peterson became Charles Bronson during his brief career as a bare-knuckle boxer. He was reputedly a formidable opponent.

"HE TURNED HIS FAILED ESCAPE ATTEMPT INTO A ROOFTOP PROTEST"

this occasion and was released early a few years later. But he'd be back inside within a few months, and the hostage-taking would start to get seriously out of hand.

Even before his 1993 charges of conspiracy to rob and possession of a sawn-off shotgun went to trial, when he was still being held on remand at Woodhill Prison, Bronson took a hostage and made some truly bizarre demands. The hostage was a civilian librarian, which again rather undermines Bronson's claims of rebelling against the system (unless he means the cataloguing and indexing system), and the demands were a helicopter, a cup of tea, and an inflatable doll.

The helicopter would have been an effective – if easily tracked – means of escape. At least it would if Bronson (or the doll) had known how to pilot it. And yes, most Brits find that a nice refreshing cuppa helps calm the nerves during moments of stress and crisis. But the inflatable doll? He hadn't been in prison that long on this occasion...

None of Bronson's demands were met, but he ended up releasing the librarian anyway. Not out of mercy or resignation, but out of disgust. According to Bronson, his captive's farts were too much to bear, and he let him go just to get some fresh air.



LEFT The infamous Broadmoor Hospital (pictured in 2000), home to some of the UK's most dangerous and deranged criminals

There's no denying this is a funny story from the outside, but being taken prisoner by a notoriously violent criminal must have been extremely traumatic, and not something any librarian would admit that they signed up for. By victimising a civilian, Bronson had crossed a line, making his actions much harder to forgive. The victims in his second most famous siege were, arguably at least, getting a taste of their own medicine.

On 26 August 1996, seven armed Iraqi men hijacked Sudan Airways Flight 150 shortly after it took off from Khartoum. The plane was scheduled to fly to Jordan, but the men demanded it be redirected to London, where they planned to seek political asylum. The men had been in Sudan on a government assignment but were afraid to return to Iraq, which was still under Saddam Hussein's regime at the time.

The men gave themselves up at Stansted Airport after freeing all 199 passengers and crew unharmed. They soon ended up in Belmarsh Prison, rubbing shoulders with fellow inmate Charles Bronson. The trouble started when Bronson was sweeping a corridor outside the cell of two of the Iraqis and felt that they were staring at him. While most would have been content to stare back and give them the "What you lookin' at?" treatment, Bronson took things several steps further.

Bronson swung his cleaning bucket at an innocent bystander, fellow inmate Jason Greasley, then dragged him into the Iraqi's cell and barricaded the door.

"My head had completely gone," Bronson wrote of the incident, and this was evident in the ever-changing demands he would make not just of the authorities but of his captives.

First he demanded a helicopter to Cuba and threatened to kill all three captives and himself if it didn't arrive within an hour. Then he remembered that he hadn't had a cup of tea all day and promptly announced that if he didn't get one immediately, he would eat one of the terrified Iraqis.

The cuppa must have cleared his head a little, because he realised that Cuba was too far for a helicopter to fly, so he instead demanded a helicopter to Heathrow Airport, where a private jet to Libya would be waiting. The plan was to take all of the Iraqi hijackers with him, and he demanded smart suits and hats for the whole group, as well as two Uzi sub-machine guns, 5,000 rounds of ammunition and an axe for himself.

Jason Greasley was not part of this plan. His wife was expecting a baby, so Bronson let him go. The two Iraqis didn't get off so lightly. Bronson forced them to call him 'General' and made them tickle his bare feet on the grounds that no one had done so for years. He also hit one of them over the head with a metal tray. When a prison officer asked why he did it he was unable to come up with an answer, so he gave the tray to the Iraqi and insisted that he hit him back, which he did.

The tray bashing and the tickling were the only demands of Bronson's that were met that day. There'd be no helicopter, no jet, no Uzis and no axe. Instead, Bronson, in a confused bid to prove he was armed, repeatedly slashed his own shoulder before removing the barricade with bloodied hands and giving himself up.

"You take a hostage and you think you're suddenly in a position of power," Bronson reflected in his autobiography. "But right from the start you're a loser. Free them or eat them, you're facing more years in jail, more years in solitary, more years in the concrete womb."

Bronson's reflections not only show that his antics aren't necessarily as funny as

During 1993, Bronson would be held twice on remand at Woodhill Prison. In the second instance he was convicted of intent to rob and sentenced to another eight years inside.

Between 1993 and 1996, Bronson would add Belmarsh, Bullingdon, High Down and Lincoln prisons to his ever-growing list of previous temporary addresses.

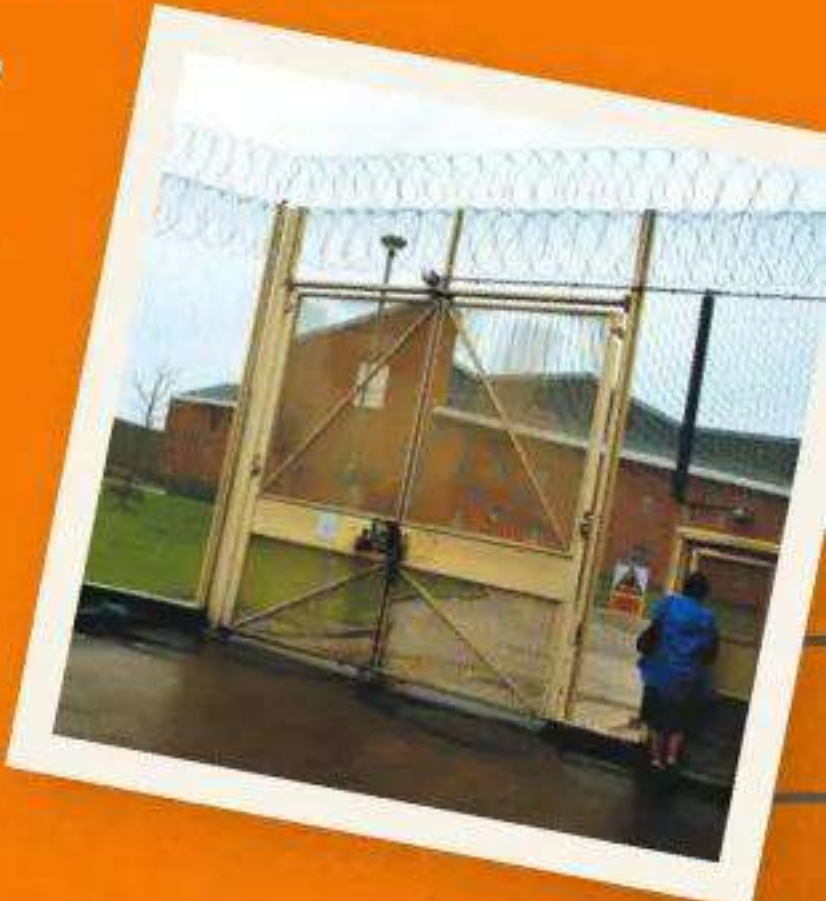
During various stints at Wakefield Prison, Bronson would often be held in the famous "glass cage" unit in the prison's basement, alongside real-life Hannibal Lecter, Robert Maudsley.

It was at Belmarsh in 1996 that Bronson would carry out one of his best-known – and most bizarre – crimes, taking Iraqi hijackers hostage and demanding ice cream in return for their release.

In 1998, the UK's first Close Supervision Centre, inspired by American Special Management Units, opened at Woodhill Prison in a bid to cope with Bronson, Robert Maudsley and Reginald Wilson.

Bronson's sentence had already doubled due to his behaviour, but in 1999 it was upgraded to a discretionary life term after he took a civilian educational worker hostage at Hull Prison.

Having spent his life sentence at Whitemoor, Full Sutton, Wakefield and Frankland prisons, Bronson says he is relatively happy at Woodhill but nonetheless keen to be released.



LEFT Lorraine Etherington and Lorraine Salvage, Bronson's sister and cousin, with the petition and a note from Bronson in which he asked David Cameron to let him "live what's left of my life"

Bronson defended himself with wit and eloquence during his 2018 attempted GBH trial, frequently sending ripples of laughter through the courtroom

PAPARAZZI KID

HOW "BRITAIN'S MOST NOTORIOUS PRISONER" FOUND HIS SON, "BRITAIN'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL PAPARAZZI"

Back in 2017, during one of his many stints at HMP Wakefield, Charles Bronson was watching Channel 4's *Confessions of the Paparazzi* documentary when something about the show's star, George Bamby, struck him as familiar. It was mainly his name, but the photographer's nose and chin rang a bell too. Bronson had had a brief fling with a girl named Bamby some 46 years previously and he quickly became convinced that George was his son. He asked his then wife Paula to contact Bamby via social media, and a visit was soon arranged. During that first visit, Bronson gave Bamby two hairs from his famous moustache so that Bamby could get them tested to see if there was a match with his own DNA. The result was a 99.98% probability that the two are indeed father and son, which is about as certain as these things ever get. George has since changed his name to George Bamby-Salvador and is taking an active part in the campaign to have his father released.



Bronson outside Wormwood Scrubs prison, where he strangled the governor in 1986

they first appear, but they also shed some light on why he behaves as he does. It's likely much more about that short-lived feeling of power than about any real effort to overturn "the system".

GOOD GIRLS LIKE BAD BOYS

Despite Bronson's own admissions of vulnerability and weakness, he's still lauded as a rebellious anti-hero by many segments of the public. His appeal is similar to that of 'bad boy' sports stars and musicians, only he's seen as the 'real deal'. This rebellious image – coupled with his impressive physique, cheeky smile and outrageous sense of humour – have made Bronson something of an unlikely heartthrob among good girls who like bad boys, and he's continued to be a lady's man even from behind bars.

Bronson met his first wife, Irene Kelsey, in 1969 when they were both still teenagers and he was still known by his given name of Michael Peterson. In 2007, Irene (now Dunroe) told *Pick Me Up* magazine that Bronson "was so different from any other boys I knew. He always wore tailored suits, had perfectly groomed sideburns and a cockney accent." And in 2022 she told James English on the *Anything Goes* podcast how polite and gentlemanly Bronson was and how she "just felt safe with him".

The couple married in 1971, when Irene was four months pregnant, but Bronson's drinking started to cause problems even before he was imprisoned in 1974. By 1979, with Bronson's sentence having already been extended multiple times, Irene decided she'd had enough and filed for divorce. Bronson was heartbroken, but he would eventually bounce back and marry again. And again.

"There was something about his eyes," Saira Ali Ahmed told *The Independent* in a 2003 interview. "I could see my whole life in them. I couldn't get him out of my mind."

So obsessed was Saira after seeing Bronson's photo in a newspaper that she eventually broke off her



relationship with a police officer and wrote to Bronson, enclosing photos and her contact details. The two became pen pals, writing to each other and speaking on the phone whenever possible. Then, after a few months of correspondence, they met for the first time when she visited him at Woodhill.

"When I walked into the room, he gave me the biggest hug in the world," she told *The Independent*. "Nobody had ever hugged me like that."

Mark Docherty would probably say the same, although this time Bronson didn't trip, or make any references to biting or gouging. He simply held her face in his hands and kissed her. Six months after first making contact the couple were married, with Bronson even going as far as to convert to Islam and change his name to Ali Charles Ahmed.

Sadly, after four years the relationship turned sour and the couple divorced having never had the chance to consummate their marriage. Saira later summed the whole thing up as a "mistake".

Bronson's third marriage ended not in divorce but in tragedy. In 2013, bit-part soap actress Paula Williamson began writing to Bronson, much as Saira Ali Ahmed had before her. They met for the first time in 2016 and, after she'd been visiting him regularly for five months, he proposed. The couple married at the Wakefield Prison chapel, with Paula hopeful that her new husbands would be released in time for her 40th birthday. But there were to be no further celebrations

Within a year, Bronson was demanding a divorce after photos of Paula with a young man 'motorboating' her with his face between her breasts appeared in the tabloid press. However, the divorce would never go through. On 29 July 2019, Paula was found dead at her home following a night of heavy drinking and drug taking. Her cause of death was recorded as multiple toxicity, with the coroner stating that she did not believe Paula took a deliberate overdose.

"PLEASE RELEASE ME!"

While their marriages to him may not have worked out, all three of Bronson's ex-wives consistently maintained that he was, and still is, "a changed man", and that his release from prison is long overdue. His family, friends

"HE COVERED HIMSELF IN BUTTER AND ATTACKED 12 PRISON OFFICERS"

and large segments of the public share this view, arguing that since 1999, when he earned his life sentence for taking a teacher hostage, he's only been violent twice.

Both of these incidents occurred in 2014; in the February of that year he attacked a prison governor for withholding his mail, and in following May he reacted to Arsenal's FA Cup win (Bronson supports their north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur) by covering himself in butter and attacking 12 prison officers simultaneously. Since then though, the only whiff of violence on Bronson's part was the "gentle bear hug", over which he was cleared of all charges.

It's also argued that when men, even especially violent ones, reach Bronson's age (he's now 70) their aggression levels drop to practically nothing, and that he's always been much more violent inside prison than outside.

These are all fair and reasonable points and, after various failed appeals against his life sentence made since 2004, it looks like things might finally be going Bronson's way. In November 2022, in the wake of new reforms subjecting such hearings to greater scrutiny, he won the right to have his next Parole Board hearing held in public. At the time of writing, a date for Bronson's hearing had not yet been set, although it's expected to be sometime in early 2023.

As for whether Bronson should be released, that will be decided at the hearing. Fifty years in prison is certainly a harsh punishment for three robberies, but Bronson does seem to now accept that he only has himself to blame for doubling his time behind bars. And that acceptance might just be key to the outcome of his hearing. For his part, Bronson seems confident.

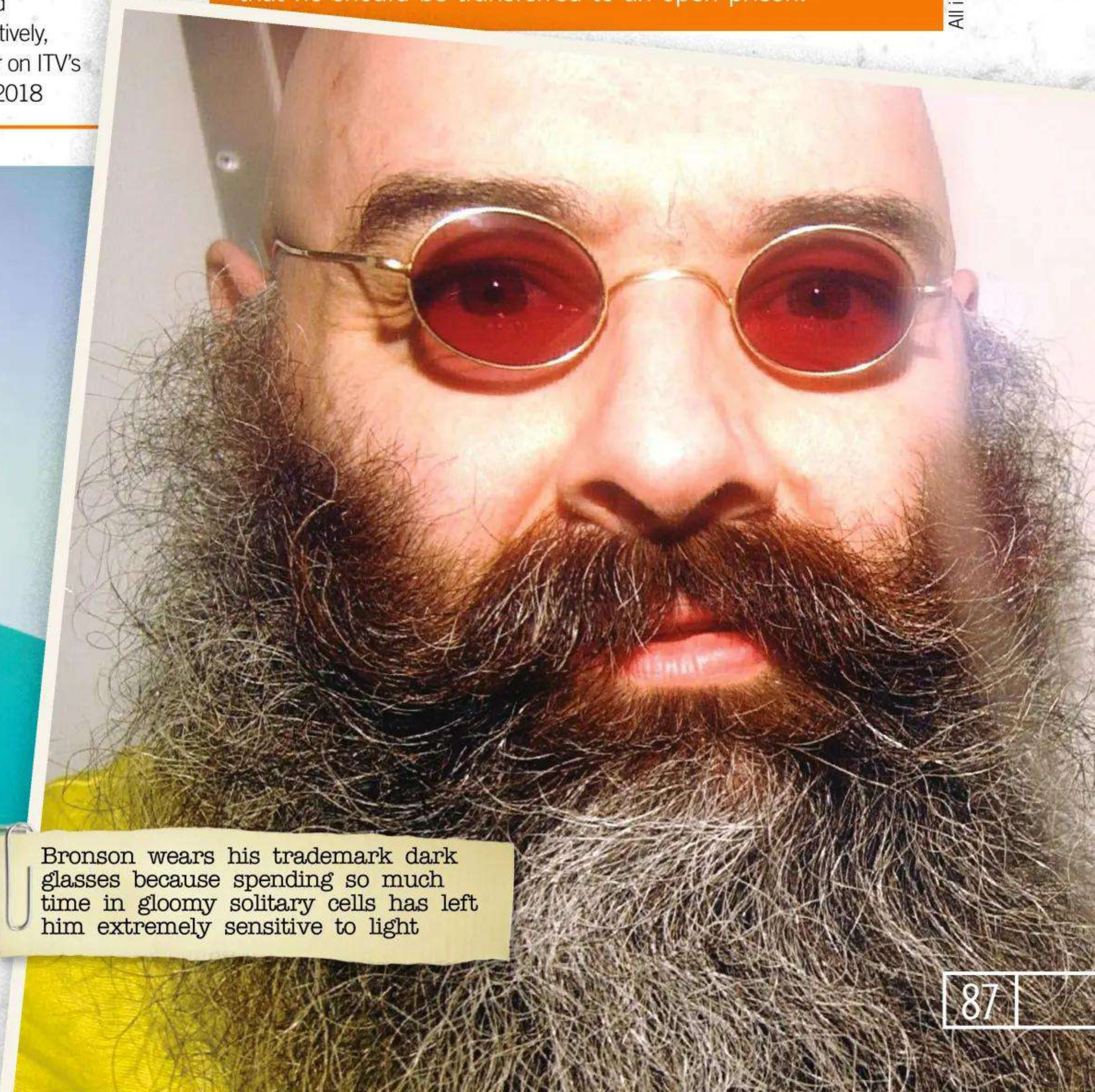
"There's no more sweeping my case under the mat," he declared on the *Anything Goes* podcast. "We're gonna smash it, mate."

In March 2023, Bronson's request was denied after a public hearing, with the Parole Board stating: "The panel was not satisfied that [he] was suitable for release. Nor did the panel recommend to the secretary of state that he should be transferred to an open prison."

BELOW Irene Dunroe (right) and Paula Williamson (centre), Bronson's first and third wives respectively, appeared together on ITV's *Loose Women* in 2018



Bronson wears his trademark dark glasses because spending so much time in gloomy solitary cells has left him extremely sensitive to light



All images: © Getty Images; Shutterstock

POISON DARYLL'S DEADLY SHAFT

WITH EVERY RHYTHM, THIS HANDSOME STRANGER KNEW HIS RUPTURED RUBBER WAS LEAKING POISON INTO HIS PARTNER. THESE GROANS OF PLEASURE WOULD SOON CHANGE TO CRIES OF ANGUISH

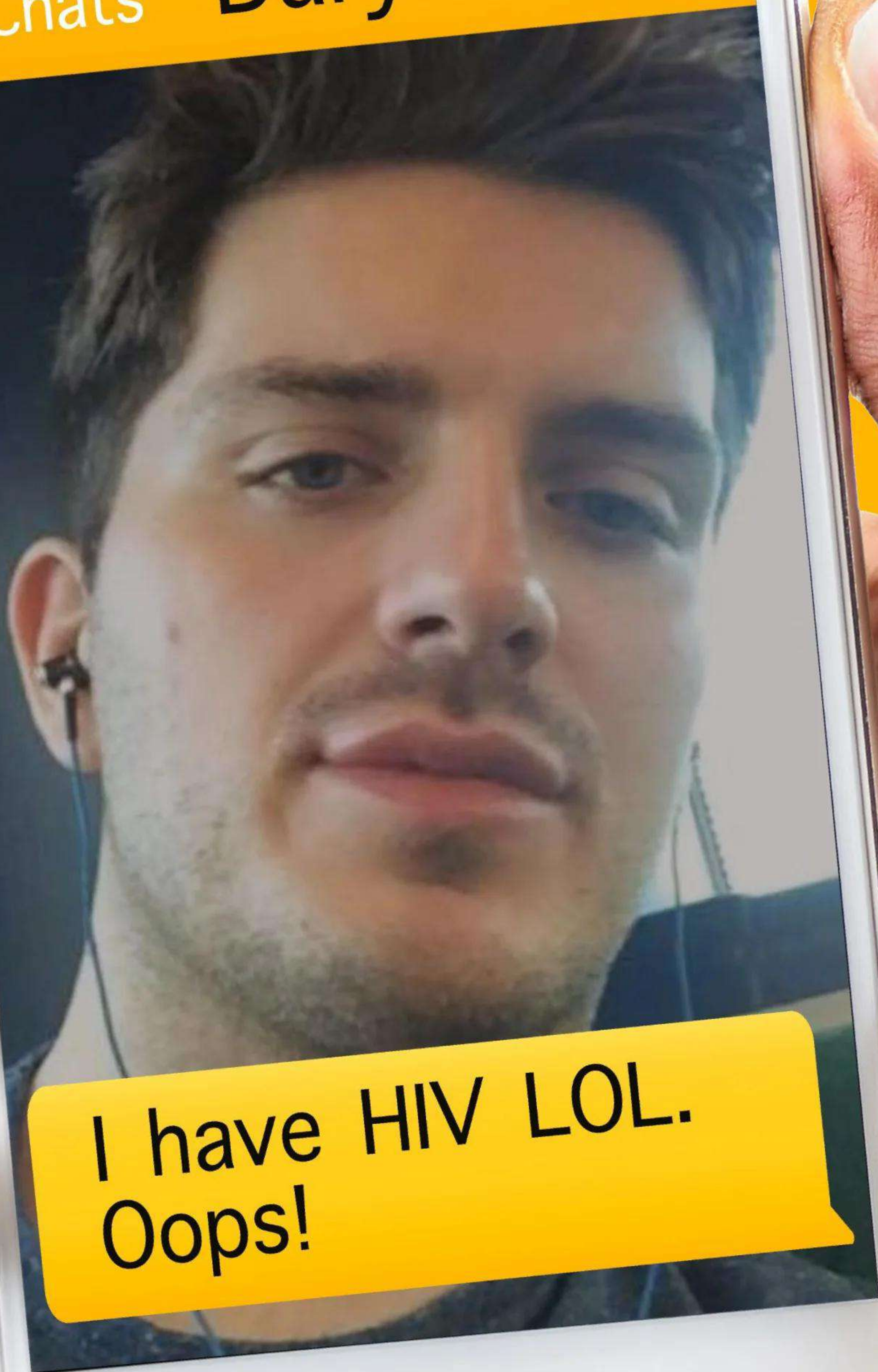
WORDS CHARLIE OUGHTON



Many of us dream of finding that special someone to spend our lives with. Someone who is just right, or even just right now. We assume that, even if it is temporary, our partners will have our best interests at heart for the duration of our time together. The diseases of HIV and AIDS seem a world away from that warmth. We may associate the illnesses with the likes of Tom Hanks in the Oscar-winning film *Philadelphia*, which followed the story of an AIDS-stricken lawyer. Skin hangs off the wire frame of the skeleton, the eyes sink into their sockets and lesions creep out of the body as it eats itself from inside out.

Daryll Rowe, on the other hand, sports a great bouffant of chocolate-brown hair on top of his visage. His stocky shoulders (which suggest more than a passing acquaintance with the gym) strut just below his designer stubble and plump lips. He is a picture of health and happiness. You would never guess that he has not only been diagnosed with HIV but in 2017 was found guilty of trying to infect ten of his former lovers with the deadly disease. He even appeared to taunt the terrified men by text message and through repeated phone calls. He then drank his own urine in the hope of doing what world experts in modern science have so far failed to do – cure the virus. Was his behaviour born of intentional viciousness or just terrible judgement?

< Chats Daryll Edit



I have HIV LOL.
Oops!

“ ROWE HAD REMOVED EACH CONDOM ONE BY ONE, BROKEN ITS TIP, ROLLED IT BACK UP AND SECRETED IT BACK IN ITS POUCH READY FOR USE ”

Daryll Rowe was born in Scotland. He was like many other young men in their late 20s and was interested in image, media and creativity, leading to a job as a hairdresser and hobbies including his own lifestyle-focused YouTube channel, Marvel comics and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. He was also keen to meet people and used social networking to expand his friendship circle in his hometown of Edinburgh.

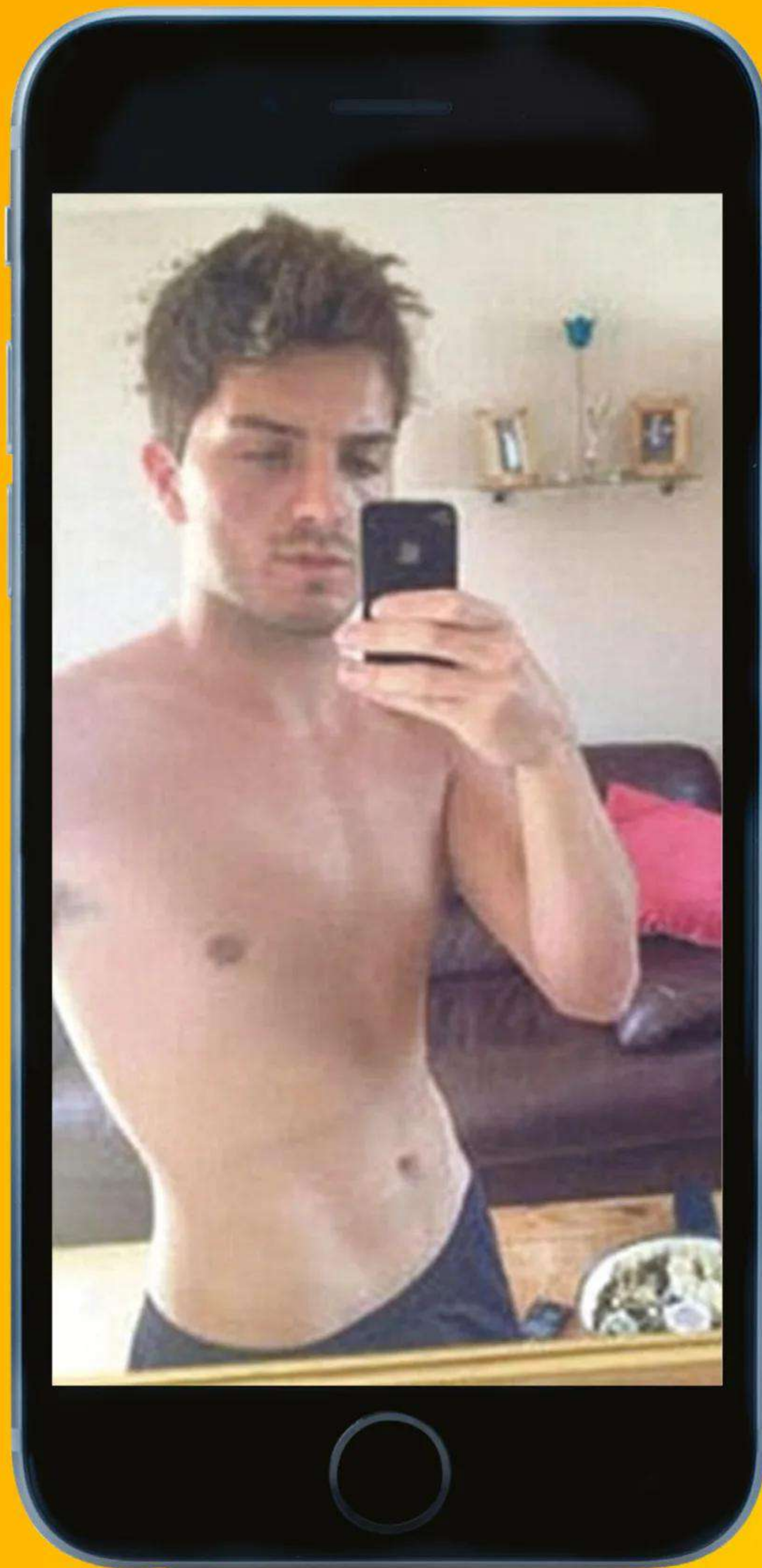
Grindr was the app he used for dating. It had worked, and he had been in a committed relationship with a boyfriend for a year. That was until April 2015, when he discovered he had accidentally been infected with HIV.

Rowe actually seemed to take the news of the diagnosis in his stride. He believed he could cure himself of any lasting effects of the disease using alternative remedies. Unfortunately, this is at odds with what HIV actually is and how it manifests.

VIRUS FACT VERSUS FICTION

HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, “damages the cells in your immune system and weakens your ability to fight everyday infections and disease”, as the National Health Service website states. It can be spread by sharing needles (including tattooing), exchanging fluids through sexual intercourse, and through pregnancy from mother to child. There is currently no cure, but by seeking early treatment, such as vaccinations, and by living a healthy lifestyle, the virus can be managed so that it doesn’t lead to an automatic early death or impact unmanageably on day-to-day living.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), on the other hand, is the name given to what happens to the body when HIV develops. The body’s reduced ability to protect itself against illness leads to greater susceptibility to life-threatening conditions, such as cancer and pneumonia. It is possible to have HIV and remain unaware of it for some time as you continue to look and live as normal, perhaps just appearing to have flu. It may be partly for this reason that Rowe’s partners were none the wiser as to his condition.



Ignorance led Rowe to believe that he could deal with the life-altering diagnosis on his own, and it didn’t go unnoticed. Staff at the care facility he had been visiting realised that he first refused vaccinations, then simply stopped showing up. To make matters worse, they knew he’d also been told he had caught another sexually transmitted disease, herpes, that increases the risk of passing on HIV. Rowe had been warned that he would be breaking the law if he knowingly passed on the virus. They informed other local authorities of his status.

LEFT Rowe promoted and supposedly maintained a lifestyle of yoga, meditation and positivity. It was as fake and staged as the angles of his selfies

BELOW In a BBC interview, one of Rowe’s ex-partners discussed overcoming a suicide bid upon discovering he’d been infected. He’d always been careful, as his own parents had died from AIDS

I kind of knew that there wasn't something right about him

And it was just the laughter. There was this menace in his voice



LYING TO THE LAW

ROWE'S POLICE INTERVIEW SUGGESTED A SLIPPERY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRUTH

Completely aside from how he may have intended the text messages to the victims to be interpreted, Rowe ultimately incriminated himself by outright lying to the police. The recording released by Sussex Police showed Rowe denying his relationship history and knowledge of his HIV status.

POLICE: Do you have HIV?

ROWE: No [Shakes his head].

POLICE: Have you had a HIV test recently?

ROWE: Erm, not recently... But I had a relationship when I first got here and it was unprotected, so I've not been tested after that.

POLICE: Is that something you were...?

ROWE: It was a couple of months ago and I was a little bit worried about that.

POLICE: So you say it was a couple of months ago you had a relationship and had unprotected sex?

ROWE: When I first got here. I was dating somebody pretty quickly. It got quite intense.

POLICE: You had unprotected sex then and you yourself haven't had an HIV test since?

ROWE: No.

POLICE: When was the last time you know you were...?

ROWE: Completely clean? Six months ago, give or take.

Despite protesting his health and innocence, Rowe knows that he had been diagnosed for months by this point.

More worrisome were the local men who soon started attending the Edinburgh clinic in his wake. They had symptoms that were remarkably similar to his. It was likely that they had all caught the virus from each other, either by having sex with Rowe or with someone to whom Rowe had already passed the strain, therefore suggesting that Rowe was continuing to have unprotected sex. But now he was nowhere to be found.

BRIGHTON BEACH BODY

Brighton, Sussex, on England's southwest coast, is known across the world as a hub of easy attitudes and good living. It has more than its fair share of the arts, café culture and nightlife, as well as a seafront that dazzles the stars themselves with its glittering fairground and majestic cliffs.

Dark and handsome, a new guy in town was messaging eager men by October 2015. Down-to-earth despite the drama of the club scene, he told the men that he was healthy before they slept together – and he slept with a lot of them over a four-month period. His Grindr inbox pinged at a frantic rate for his different usernames. He didn't even seem to break a sweat when arrested after rumours of someone infecting people began to circulate locally, despite having by that point slept with a further eight men. His bail conditions required him to live outside of Brighton, so he simply picked up his bag and travelled north to Northumberland.

That bag was important, mind you. Ever-ready in case of a tryst, he made sure it always contained his specially prepared protection packets. The small, shiny squares looked sturdy in the low light, but closer examination would reveal a jagged tear in the corner. Rowe had removed each condom one by one, broken its tip, rolled it back up and secreted it back in its pouch ready for use.

'Gary Cole', as Rowe was now calling himself, skipped bail completely. By this point the police had put out a public information warning called 'Operation Brickhill' about his

ABOVE Wagging his finger somewhat sanctimoniously towards the sky, Daryll Rowe lied repeatedly to Sussex Police in interview about his HIV status



I ripped the condom. Burn. I got you.

2 min

1

behaviour. Details of “a Scottish man in his mid twenties” were in the newspapers. He was arrested at the home of one of his lovers, bag with butchered contraceptives in tow. Had he intended to use them, and was there any other proof of premeditation rather than simple assumption?

DELIBERATE DEATH DEALER?

Grievous bodily harm and its definitions were the crux of the case and whether Rowe had intentionally infected his lovers. This was important, considering it is possible to practice safe sex and not realise the condom has slipped or been accidentally nipped. According to Mark Latham-White (LLB), a specialist in criminal defence with GHP Legal, the key is the wording of the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861. The Act specifically mentions “malice”.

According to Latham-White, “If a person has intentionally caused serious or really serious harm without any justification at least or excuse” they are guilty. To prove intent, Latham-White said, “the *actus reus* [the actual act] and the *mens rea* [the guilty mind] needs to be present”. This means that Rowe had to understand that he had HIV, what it was and that having unprotected sex could pass it on – and then had sex, thereby committing the *actus reus*.

To have done this would show he had actually tried to pass it on rather than any infection being accidental – thereby committing the *mens rea* – if he was to be found guilty. The problem in proving intent is that it is somewhat open to conjecture as to whether he would have actually used the damaged condoms in his bag, after all.

Damning evidence in the trial came from an exchange he had with his first victim. Opening the text message after they had shared an evening together, the unsuspecting suitor found the words, “I have HIV. Lol. Oops” staring back up at him. Was the combination of the dire, bald statement coupled with humour-related text speak and “Oops” an attempt at wit? A terribly misjudged way to break bad news gently? Was it sheer spite? The latter was the contention of lawyer

Caroline Carberry. She stated that Rowe’s actions were a “campaign” to infect the men.

Rowe countered that, on the contrary, he couldn’t even “remember sending” the texts and “didn’t give the messages much thought”. His second

victim would disagree –

Rowe had made the message person-specific, calling him a “stupid American” and had sent the man a caustic message stating simply, “I

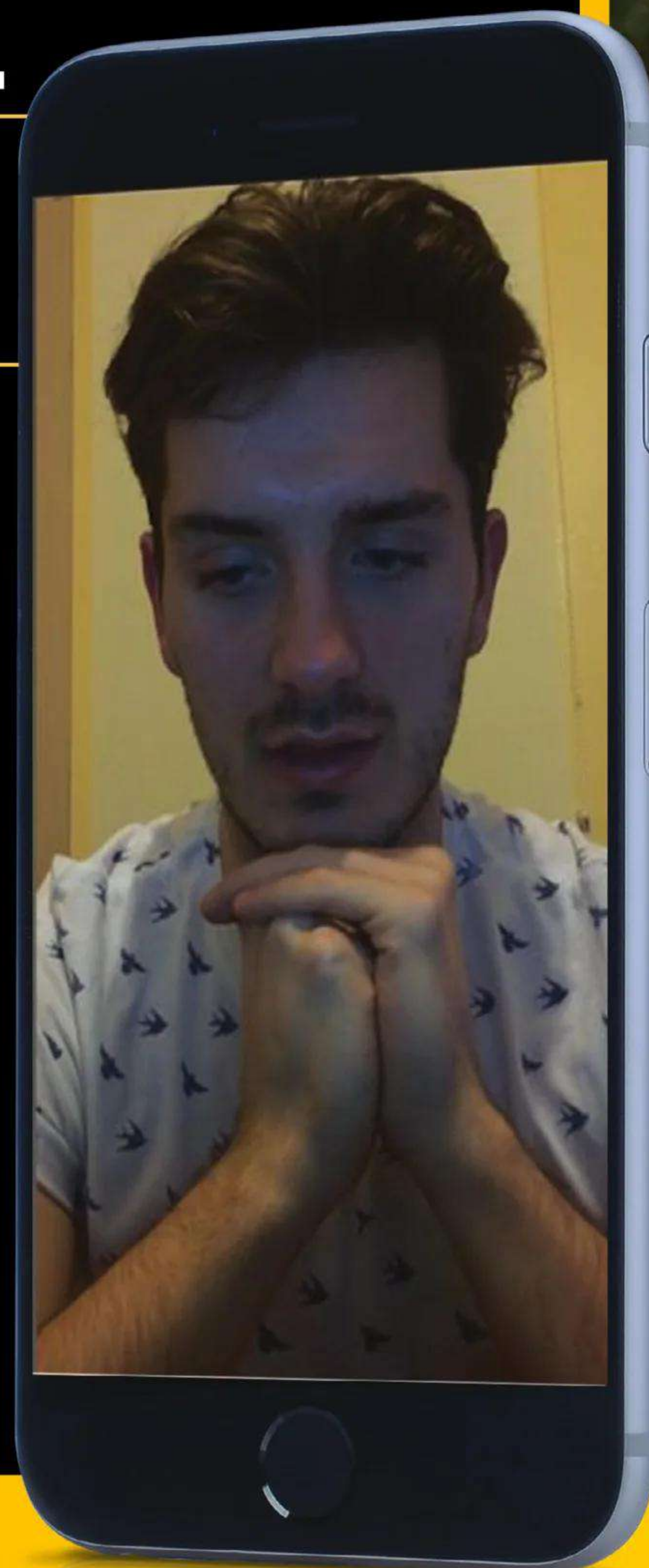
EXTRACTING THE URINE

ROWE TOLD THE COURT HE BELIEVED HE’D CURED HIS HIV THROUGH HEALTHY LIVING AND AN UNUSUAL NATURAL REMEDY

Like many of us, Rowe apparently wanted to be healthy and chronicled his lifestyle online. He didn’t drink alcohol, didn’t smoke, used coconut oil as a moisturiser and had an animal-product-free vegan diet. He also believed coconut oil mouthwash could detoxify his whole body. He also sipped on his own fresh urine “every single day” as “medication” with a bit of added zing (salty for a healthy person, since you ask).

Unsurprisingly, this peculiar self-prescription was brought up during his trial. Had he known he had HIV and what the diagnosis meant? Rowe said he thought his murky mixture would cure him of the disease, stating, “Why would I do it every single day if I thought it was nonsense?”

He told the court that had he tried to self-medicate because he didn’t trust doctors. He didn’t want to take the HIV medication he was given, didn’t read the information about what it would do to help him and didn’t tell consultants about his urine pastime. He said he was embarrassed because he felt they were “mocking” his diet. He did, however, promise not to have unprotected sex, when clearly that was the last thing on his mind.



ripped the condom. Burn. I got you”. He appeared to have claimed culpability. Rowe, however, dismissed the importance of the exchange, saying “Most of the messages are just really nasty and to get a reaction from the other person. I did not mean any of it. I didn’t believe I had HIV at the time.”

This seems unlikely, however. The trial heard how he targeted one victim with phone calls, appearing intent on inflicting extra trauma by demanding “raw”, unprotected sex. He told the man that he would also be raped at their next meeting. Unbelievably, Rowe’s flippancy even extended to the moments after lovemaking. “Riddled with diseases” was how he described himself when another survivor found a damaged condom in the sink. Still visibly healthy, Rowe was seemingly exaggerating for dramatic effect.

EMOTIONAL TORTURE

Why was he doing it? Rowe had come out as gay in his teens and seemed confident, but the words, “You’re a typical sassy,



queen, stupid little air hostess” were what he texted to one lover. Calling someone ‘queen’ is sometimes seen as an insult suggesting that gay men are effeminate. This implies Rowe was actually homophobic or disliked what he considered more feminine men’s ways of presenting themselves. Then again, one suitor was simply told, “You’ve got an ugly weird face”, with no direct relevance to the man’s sexuality. Rowe was often just cruel.

Men who did engage with him over a longer period of time did not see the quiet, conscientious health enthusiast persona Rowe put forward on his YouTube channel. He would, they said, become possessive, controlling and emotionally abusive. While he nursed one lover who developed symptoms typical of HIV, in another second he would message the man to say, “I’m way, way out of your league” and advised him, “No one will ever love you”. When one victim replied to a text to tell Rowe that he wasn’t showing symptoms, he received the reply, “Give it a few months. Dormant”, which developed into, “Not even been three months. Don’t break out the party just yet. Loser. Ha ha.” On the off-chance Rowe hadn’t spread the infection, he was determined the man should be made paranoid and feel threatened regardless.

Rowe’s crowing messages led to his capture. His ex-lovers realised he knew too much about the symptoms of the

ABOVE Looking relaxed with a demeanour that belied the charges against him, a handcuffed Daryll Rowe was led to his trial at Lewes Crown Court on 15 November 2017

LEFT Daryll Rowe tried to start a vlogging career and used his YouTube channel to accuse a business of “taking advantage of people and using a product – coconut oil – as something else”. His hypocrisy is staggering

Don’t break out the party just yet. Loser. Ha ha.

1 min

2

“ ‘RIDDLED WITH DISEASES’ WAS HOW HE DESCRIBED HIMSELF WHEN ANOTHER SURVIVOR FOUND A DAMAGED CONDOM ”

disease. Despite many of them believing they had practised safe sex, they did indeed find they were infected with the virus after their contact with him.

STOPPING THE SPREAD

Rowe entered Lewes Crown Court in Sussex denying five counts of causing grievous bodily harm with intent, and five of attempts to cause it to those with whom he slept. In November 2017 he was found guilty of the charges.

Sussex police defended their initial delay in releasing information about his known crimes and his identity. They stated that they did not want to enable him to mislead the public in case Rowe was using false names, or for those who had had relations with someone he had infected to be hoodwinked into thinking the danger had been contained.

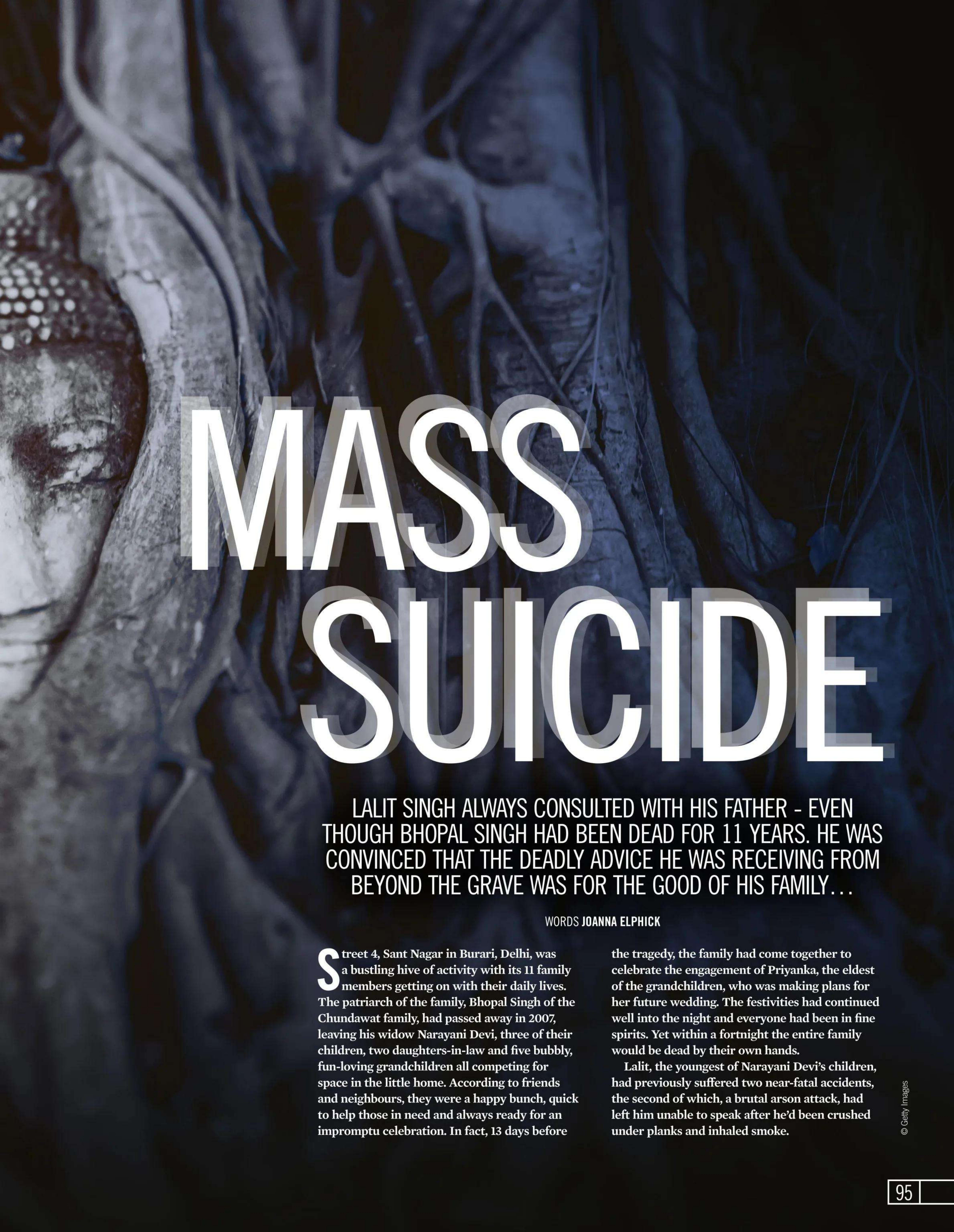
Our increasingly connected world allows us to travel to new places and meet new people with enormous ease. Daryll Rowe’s crime was not in enjoying this freedom, but in taking others’ lives for granted. That he seems to have done this purely out of belligerent spite beggars belief, particularly considering how much he knew about the illness.

Daryll Rowe will face justice, retribution and a lifetime of probable suspicion from all who know him. Those who survived him have suffered a terrible trauma. Thankfully, they can move on to new adventures aided by a properly healthy lifestyle, those who love them and medical science.

If you have concerns about your sexual health, don’t wait – contact your doctor or local sexual health clinic. Early treatment could save your life.



MADNESS AND



MASS SUICIDE

LALIT SINGH ALWAYS CONSULTED WITH HIS FATHER - EVEN THOUGH BHOPAL SINGH HAD BEEN DEAD FOR 11 YEARS. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE DEADLY ADVICE HE WAS RECEIVING FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE WAS FOR THE GOOD OF HIS FAMILY...

WORDS JOANNA ELPHICK

Street 4, Sant Nagar in Burari, Delhi, was a bustling hive of activity with its 11 family members getting on with their daily lives. The patriarch of the family, Bhopal Singh of the Chundawat family, had passed away in 2007, leaving his widow Narayani Devi, three of their children, two daughters-in-law and five bubbly, fun-loving grandchildren all competing for space in the little home. According to friends and neighbours, they were a happy bunch, quick to help those in need and always ready for an impromptu celebration. In fact, 13 days before

the tragedy, the family had come together to celebrate the engagement of Priyanka, the eldest of the grandchildren, who was making plans for her future wedding. The festivities had continued well into the night and everyone had been in fine spirits. Yet within a fortnight the entire family would be dead by their own hands.

Lalit, the youngest of Narayani Devi's children, had previously suffered two near-fatal accidents, the second of which, a brutal arson attack, had left him unable to speak after he'd been crushed under planks and inhaled smoke.

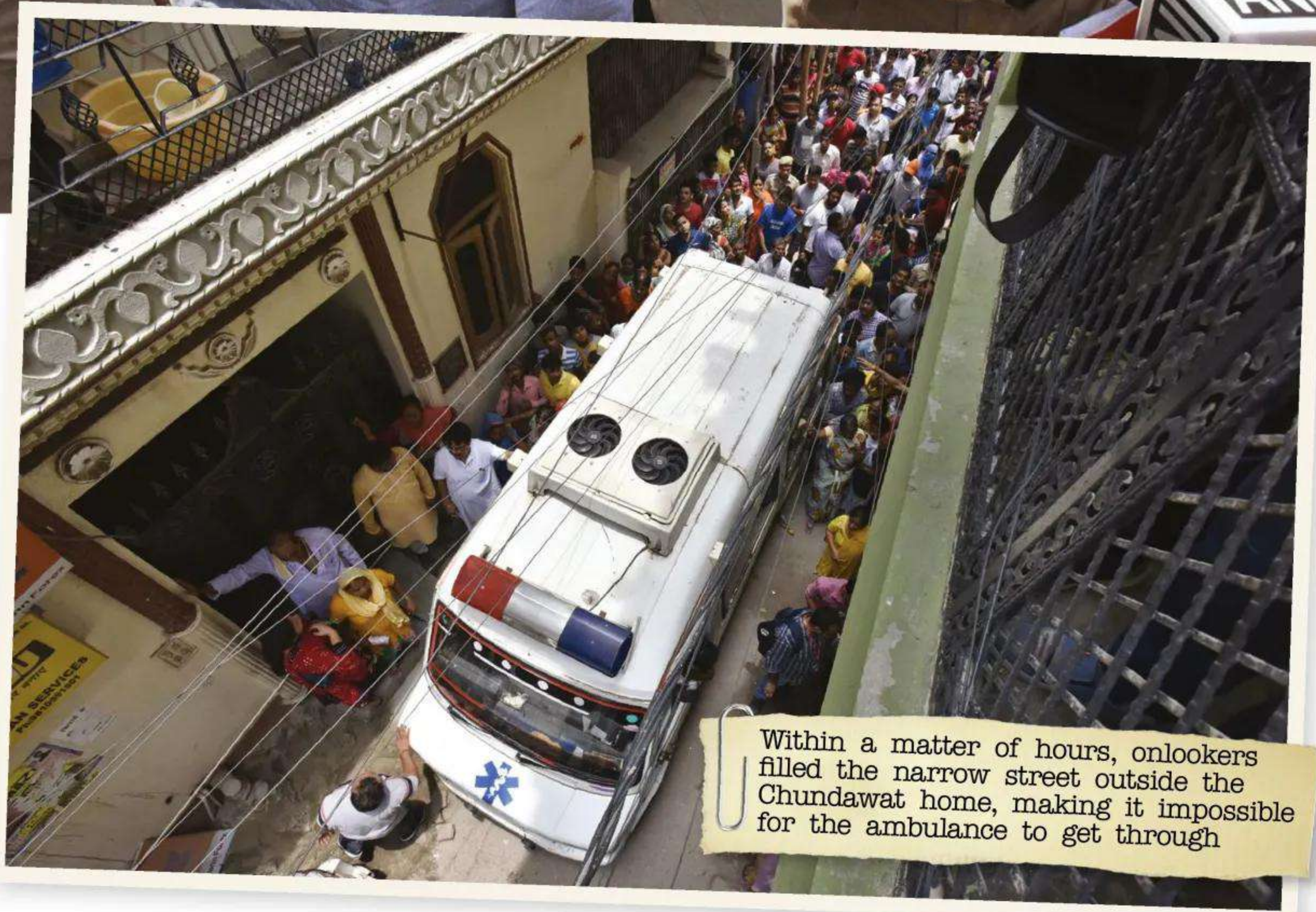


The jovial joker of the family had resorted to scribbling notes to his friends and family when speech became too painful. After Bhopal Singh passed away, Lalit miraculously regained his voice and started speaking once more. Whilst everyone was thrilled to hear him talking, friends noticed that his demeanour had changed. He had become introverted and less sociable, but this was almost certainly due to the loss of his beloved father so nobody outside the family circle was unduly worried.

A NATURAL-BORN LEADER

Bhopal Singh may have gone but life went on for the Chundawats, who were now led by the savvy, intellectual Lalit. Despite the fact he had older siblings, Lalit and his wife Tina took on the responsibility of running the family – and it wasn't long after his father's death that he started to make some drastic changes. Bhavnesh, Lalit's brother, was forced to stop drinking at home and the whole family refrained from cooking and eating non-vegetarian food. Pujas (a Hindu ritual) were increased so the family worshipped up to three times a day. The youngest of the grandchildren, Lalit's son Shivam, and his cousin, Dhruv, both 15, were required to give up their mobile phones and to start worshipping the Sun across the weekends instead of playing on their laptops. With the new enforced lifestyle changes came an improvement in their financial circumstances, as the

“LALIT CONVINCED THE FAMILY THAT THEIR LATE FATHER WOULD SAVE THEM FROM DEATH AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT”



TOP Delhi Police Joint Commissioner, Rajesh Khurana, faced reporters as they swarmed outside the family home, desperate to hear if the rumours about the grisly scene were true

family business enlarged from one shop to three. The little house was extended and it seemed to friends and neighbours that things were looking up for the popular Chundawats. Sadly, the opposite was true.

The return of Lalit's voice was taken as a miracle, a moment of joy during the sorrowful time of Bhopal Singh's passing. But as Lalit began chanting, the grateful family were unaware that this was the voice that would seal their doom. No one can be sure when he shared his beliefs, but at some point in the days following Bhopal's death, Lalit told his family that he had been taken over by the soul of his father and that it was in fact the patriarch of the family who now spoke to them through him. He had, Lalit claimed, returned to guide the Chundawats so that they might better themselves and get rid of their old bad habits. This would improve their family circumstances and see them on a better, more enlightened path.

BENEATH THE BANYAN TREE

THE RITUALS WERE SUPPOSED TO ENSURE LONGEVITY BUT IN THIS CASE IT INSTIGATED THE FAMILY'S DEMISE

As one of the most sacred trees in India, worshipping the banyan is said to bring about a long and healthy life. In Hindu lore it is thought to be a heavenly tree where the bark represents Lord Vishnu, the branches represent Lord Shiva, and the roots Lord Brahma. It is here, amongst the leaves of the banyan tree that the gods reside. It is also said to be the place where the spirits of deceased relatives can be found and souls can

be returned. No wonder, then, that Lalit Singh insisted on carrying out a Banyan Puja after believing that his dead father's spirit had returned to guide the family towards wealth and spiritual fulfilment.

During banyan tree rituals, women are often seen tying multi-coloured threads around the trunk, just as each member of the Chundawat family hung from brightly coloured scarfs like fruit hanging from a tree.



Hindu women tie colourful strings around the trunk during a Badh Puja ritual where 'everybody should hang like the branches of a banyan tree'

INSTRUCTIONS FROM BEYOND

From this point on Lalit began keeping a diary, filling the pages with his father's words of wisdom and instruction. To begin with, the notes referred to an increase in pujas and strict behaviour, but as time went on, the entries became darker. It was initially presumed that the diaries had been written by Lalit whilst possessed by his late father's spirit, but writing analysis experts ultimately discovered that they had been scribed by two of Bhopal's granddaughters, Priyanka and Neetu. All in all, Lalit dictated 11 diaries, one for each year after his father's death.

Neighbours later recalled how Lalit would insist that the entire family should come together during the evening and sit before him as they sang kirtans, a form of devotional song, and to acknowledge Bhopal Singh's photograph. At no point was anyone outside the family made aware of Lalit's bizarre claims. In fact, the diaries expressly forbade anyone within the household to talk of Bhopal Singh's 'return'. Even Lalit's brother Dinesh, who lived some distance away, was not made aware of the ominous events gathering momentum in the family home. Later diaries began mentioning other souls that had contacted Lalit. These 'atripta atmas' were the wandering spirits of other family members who had died but could not find peace. It seemed that they too required religious rites to be performed in order that they might be freed. But it was the whispering voice of the patriarch's spirit, spoken through a disturbed Lalit and dutifully written down by Priyanka, that orchestrated the final moments of the Chundawat family.

When Lalit failed to show up for his daily morning walk, best friend Gurcharan Singh became worried and decided to go and see what was keeping him. Finding the front door open did nothing to allay his fears, but in his wildest imagination he could not have envisioned the ghastly sight that met his eyes.

MURDER OR SUICIDE?

The police were called and Constable Rajeev Tomar was sent to investigate. The three siblings, two of their spouses and Bhopal's five grandchildren all dangled on multi-coloured scarfs, tied to a grate in the courtyard ceiling, hanging like the branches of a banyan tree. Their faces were hidden beneath cloth, their mouths gagged, ears stuffed with cotton wool, and

hands tied. The elderly Narayani Devi was discovered dead in the next room. She had been strangled with a belt that had been tied to a door.

Initially the police believed there had been a mass murder but, on closer inspection, without any signs of a struggle and with a burnt offering smouldering on the floor, they concluded that a religious ceremony, known as 'badh tapasya', had gone terribly wrong and had resulted in a group suicide instead. A number of stools stood in a cluster beneath the swinging corpses. The investigators' theory was confirmed when officers discovered the collection of diaries. The last entry contained clear instructions as to how the ritual was to be carried out, detailing the exact position of each person and how the hands and feet were to be tied. It even explained how Narayani was to be placed in another room since she was too frail and could not stand like the others. The final sentence, supposedly told to Lalit by his father's spirit, reduced the usually hardened police officers to tears as they read it aloud: "I will come to save you and others." Clearly Lalit had convinced the family that carrying out the ritual would prove their faith and allegiance to their late father, who would save them from death at the very last moment.

BELOW Relatives of the deceased family attempted to come to terms with the reality of the situation but some still maintain it was a case of murder, not suicide



All images: © Alamy, Getty Images

Lalit had clearly lost touch with reality following his father's death, but what on earth could have made the remaining family members go along with such a dreadful plan? These were lively, intelligent, well-educated people. How was it possible that Lalit could convince them to end their lives, relying on a disembodied voice from beyond the grave to save them?

A CONTAGIOUS CASE OF INSANITY

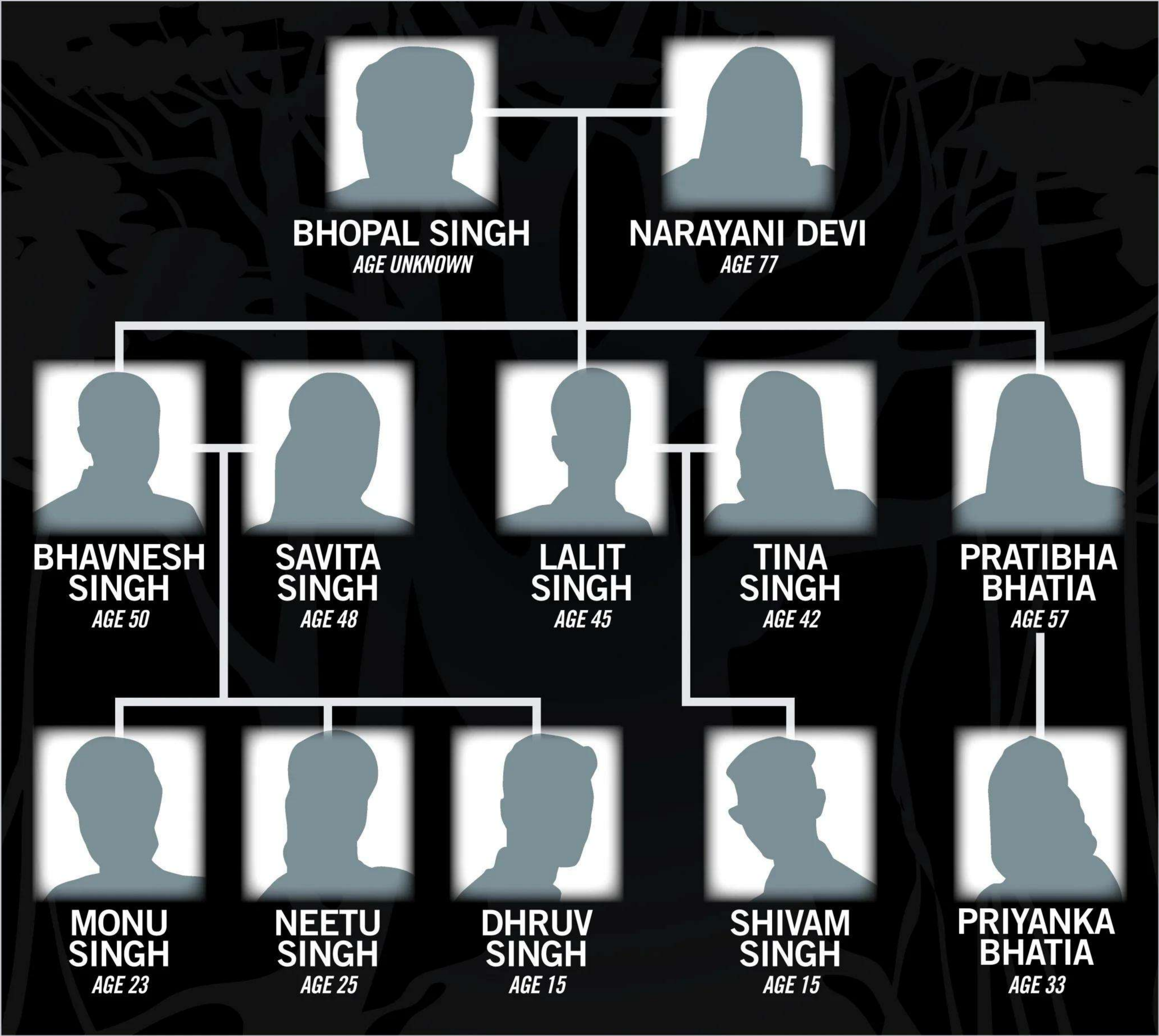
CCTV film footage clearly showed that members of the family were the only ones at the home when the tragedy occurred. No one else came or went, so no one else could

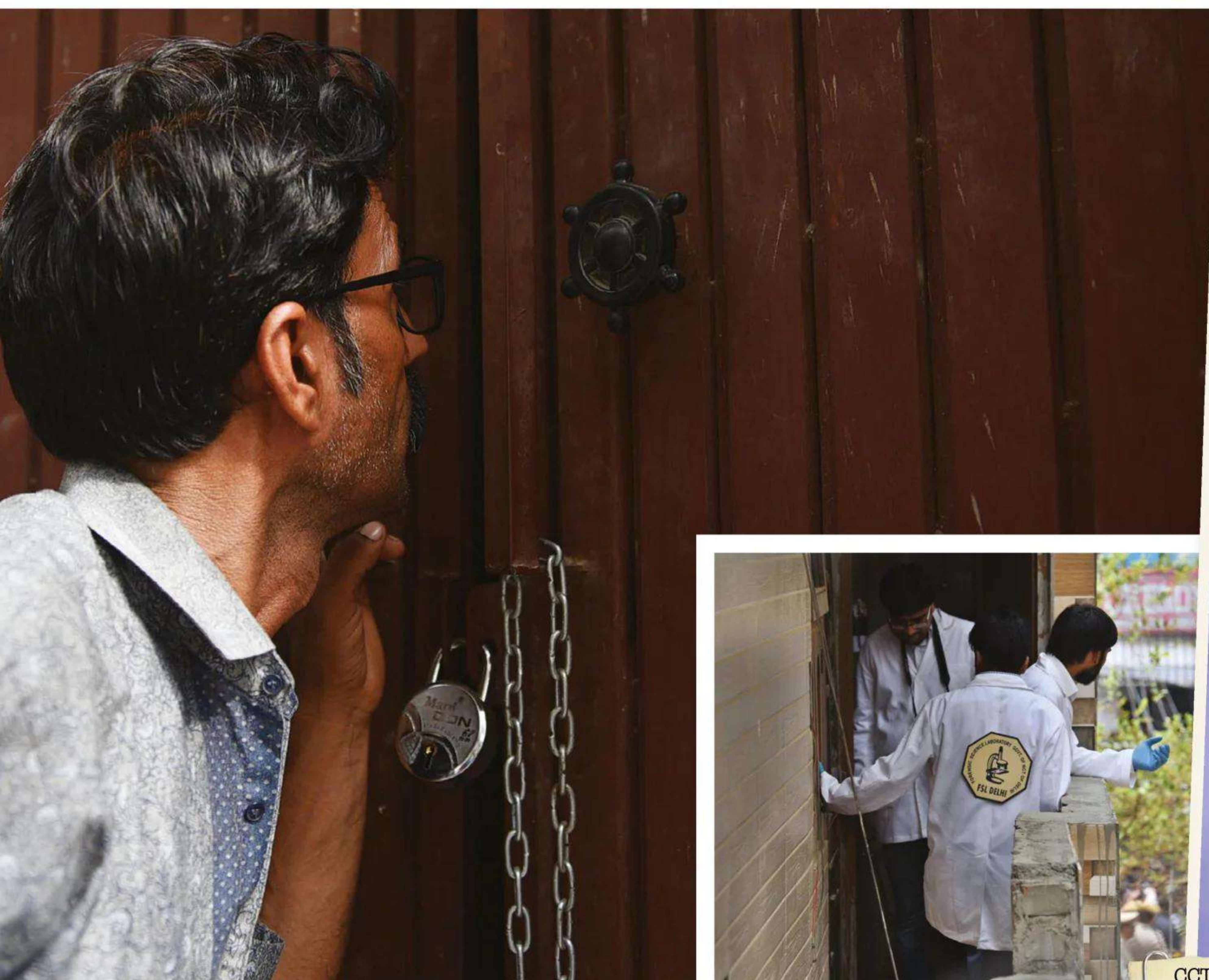
have possibly been involved. However, surviving family members still refuse to entertain the notion that their relatives simply committed suicide, referencing the fact that each person had their hands tied. Surely, they argue, the family were forced into the hanging? Yet the coroner's report shows that there were no signs of a struggle on their bodies and it would have been all too easy for one or two members to tie the others' hands and feet before tying their own hands loosely in front of them. Both Lalit and Tina were found bound in this way. Equally, the neat and tidy home showed no indications of a violent altercation. Relatives also claim that they would have known if something insidious had been worming its way into the minds of their loved ones.



FOLIE EN FAMILLE

ELEVEN YEARS AFTER BHOPAL'S PASSING, HE APPARENTLY INSTRUCTED THE REST OF THIS SEEMINGLY HAPPY FAMILY TO TAKE THEIR OWN LIVES





CCTV footage showed two of the women bringing in stools on 28 June 2018, in preparation for the banyan ritual. No outsiders were seen visiting the house

© Burari Police

A suicide in the family is always a shock and difficult to come to terms with, especially when there were no outward signs of distress or depression. Losing an entire family so needlessly must therefore be impossible to comprehend.

Unfortunately, something set the Chundawat family down the dark path to their deaths. Psychiatrists believe that this is a case of Shared Psychotic Disorder and that Lalit was instrumental in bringing the event to its tragic conclusion.

When SDP occurs one member of the family loses touch with reality, experiencing voices, delusions and sometimes hallucinations. If that person also happens to be the most dominant family member it can add weight and importance to their claims, resulting in acceptance and ultimately compliance from the remaining relatives. Lalit quickly slipped into the significant role of his late father without any objections from his older siblings, despite the fact that he had been injured on two separate occasions, leading to head injuries and PTSD. He was already a vulnerable person and it seemed that losing his father was the last straw. Finding it difficult to come to terms with a life without the family patriarch, he simply 'brought him back to life'. The truly shocking aspect is how easily he convinced his relatives into accepting his claims and following his bizarre orders.

During the 19th century, Charles Lasègue and Jules Falret identified the psychotic disorder of Folie à Deux, a madness shared by two, whereby the delusions of one dominant individual is transmitted to a weaker person. This could be increased from Folie à Trois up to Folie en Famille. The French

ABOVE-LEFT Reporters jostled and pushed in an attempt to peep through the doors and be the first media outlet to describe exactly what had happened

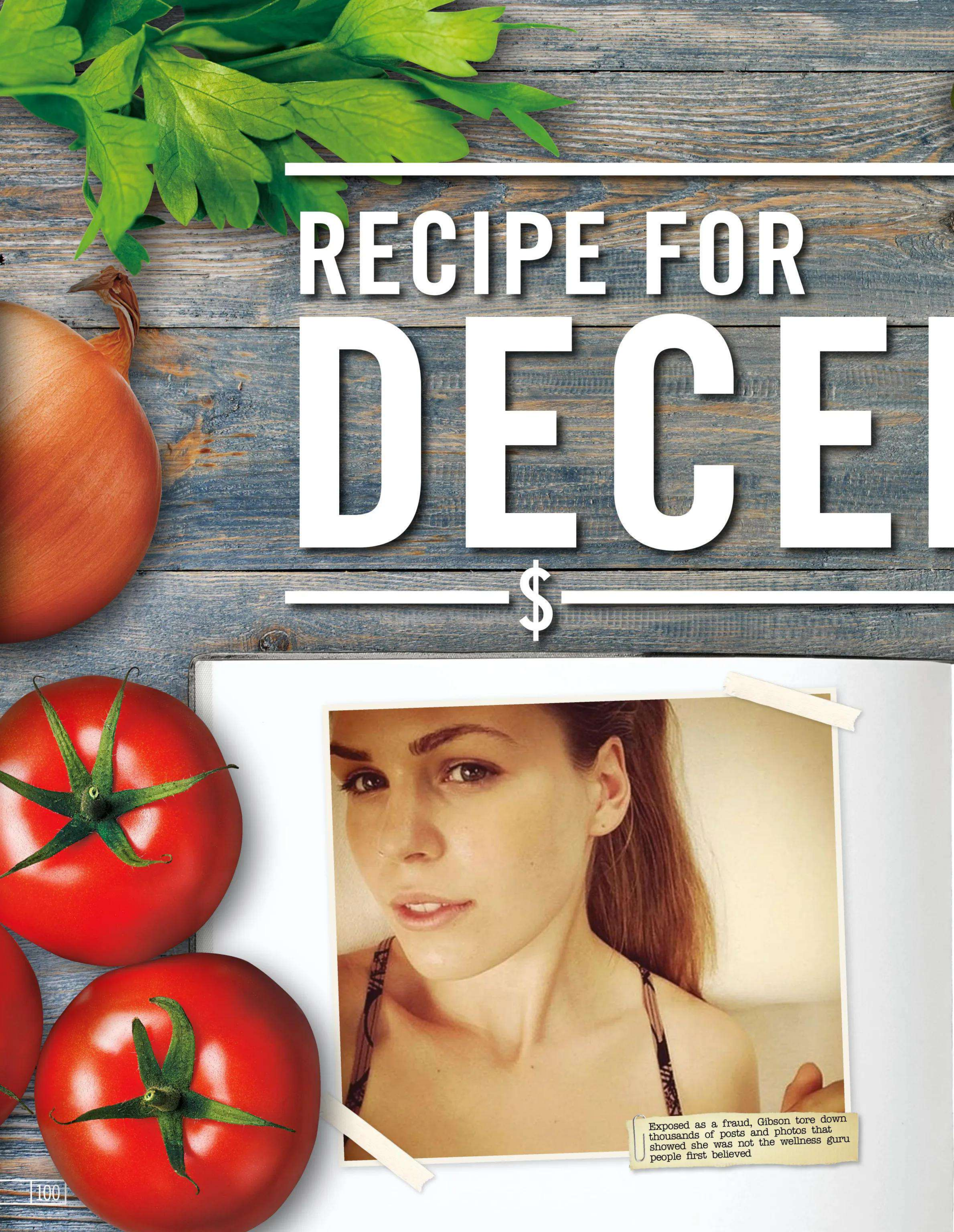
ABOVE-INSET A Burari forensic science laboratory team begin their investigation at the house where the Chundawat family was found

psychiatrists concluded that the 'inducer' would rarely intend any harm. In fact, they would usually believe that their actions were helpful in some way. Lalit was convinced that his father's spirit was guiding the family towards a better, more prosperous way of life and, far from instigating a mass suicide, he truly believed that the entire family would be saved the moment they jumped off the stools. The last entry advises the relatives not to panic and to "take the final leap of faith".

Folie en Famille is most commonly caused by a combination of two factors: stress and isolation. The loss of Bhopal Singh obviously put emotional and financial strain upon the family, especially Lalit, who had taken it upon himself to become the new patriarch. But what of the required isolation? The Chundawats had been extremely popular and were well-liked by their neighbours. However, police later discovered that not one neighbour or friend had ever been invited into the family home. What went on behind closed doors had been an impenetrable secret. Such a setting was a perfect breeding ground for shared psychosis as there was no rational voice to bring the family back to reality and no way of knowing quite how serious the situation had become behind the barricaded walls.

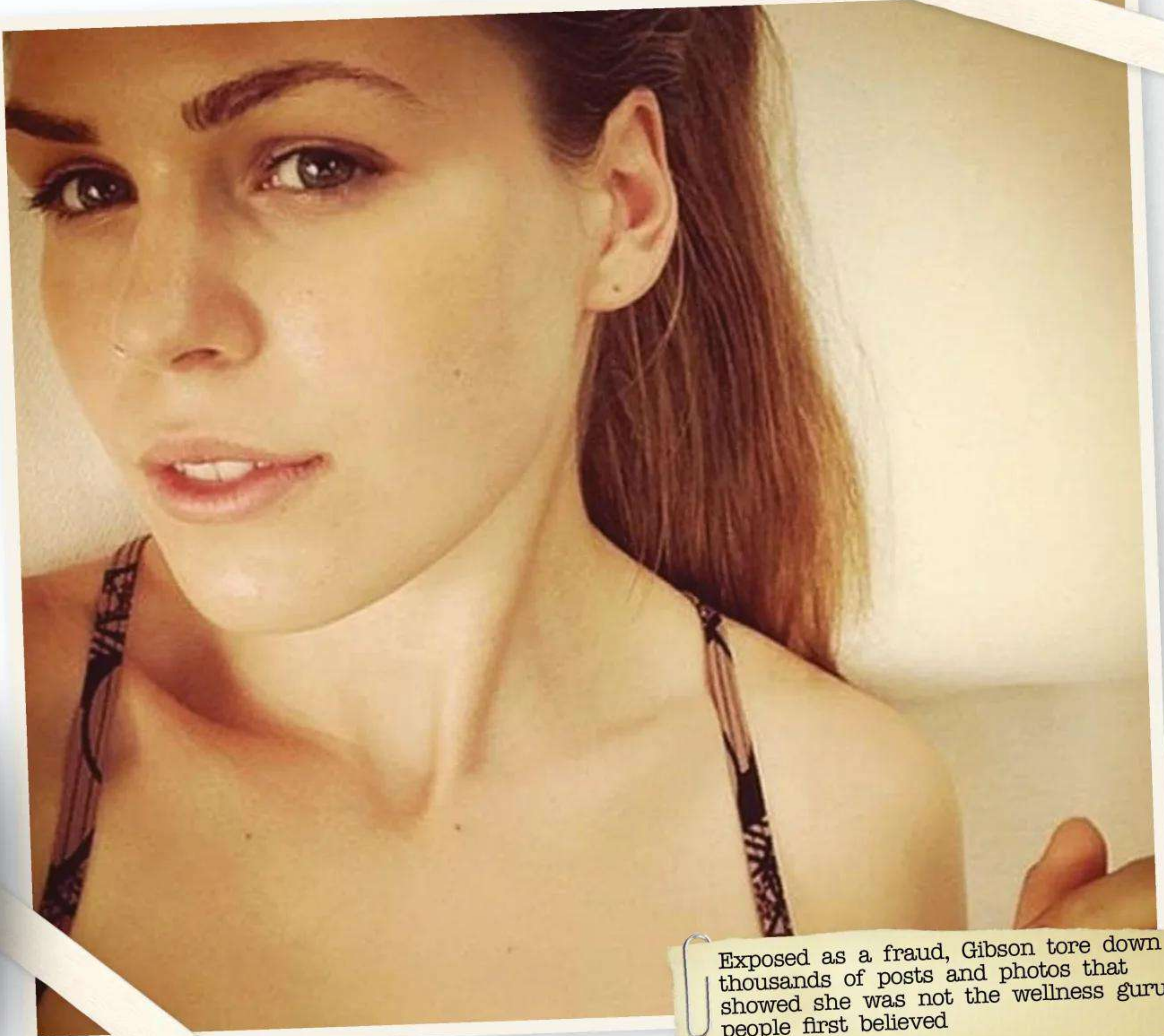
Mental health is generally not openly discussed within the Indian culture and families are far more likely to deal with such issues internally. A tight-knit group of people, especially within a family, is known as an 'enmeshment' in psychiatric terms and it is here that Folie en Famille is most likely to occur. Had the family reached out for help as soon as Lalit began exhibiting signs of abnormal behaviour, they would never have been caught up in his delusions, and, through medication and therapy, each one would almost certainly have been saved.

“ FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO COME TO TERMS WITH A LIFE WITHOUT THE FAMILY PATRIARCH, LALIT SIMPLY ‘BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE’ ”



RECIPE FOR DECEIT

\$



Exposed as a fraud, Gibson tore down thousands of posts and photos that showed she was not the wellness guru people first believed



PTION

BRAIN CANCER PATIENT BELLE GIBSON'S WELLNESS ENTERPRISE SEEMED WHOLESOME BUT WAS LACED WITH LIES. SHE WASN'T DYING. SHE DIDN'T HAVE CANCER. BUT SHE DID HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT LOADED WITH THE PROFITS OF HER SCAM

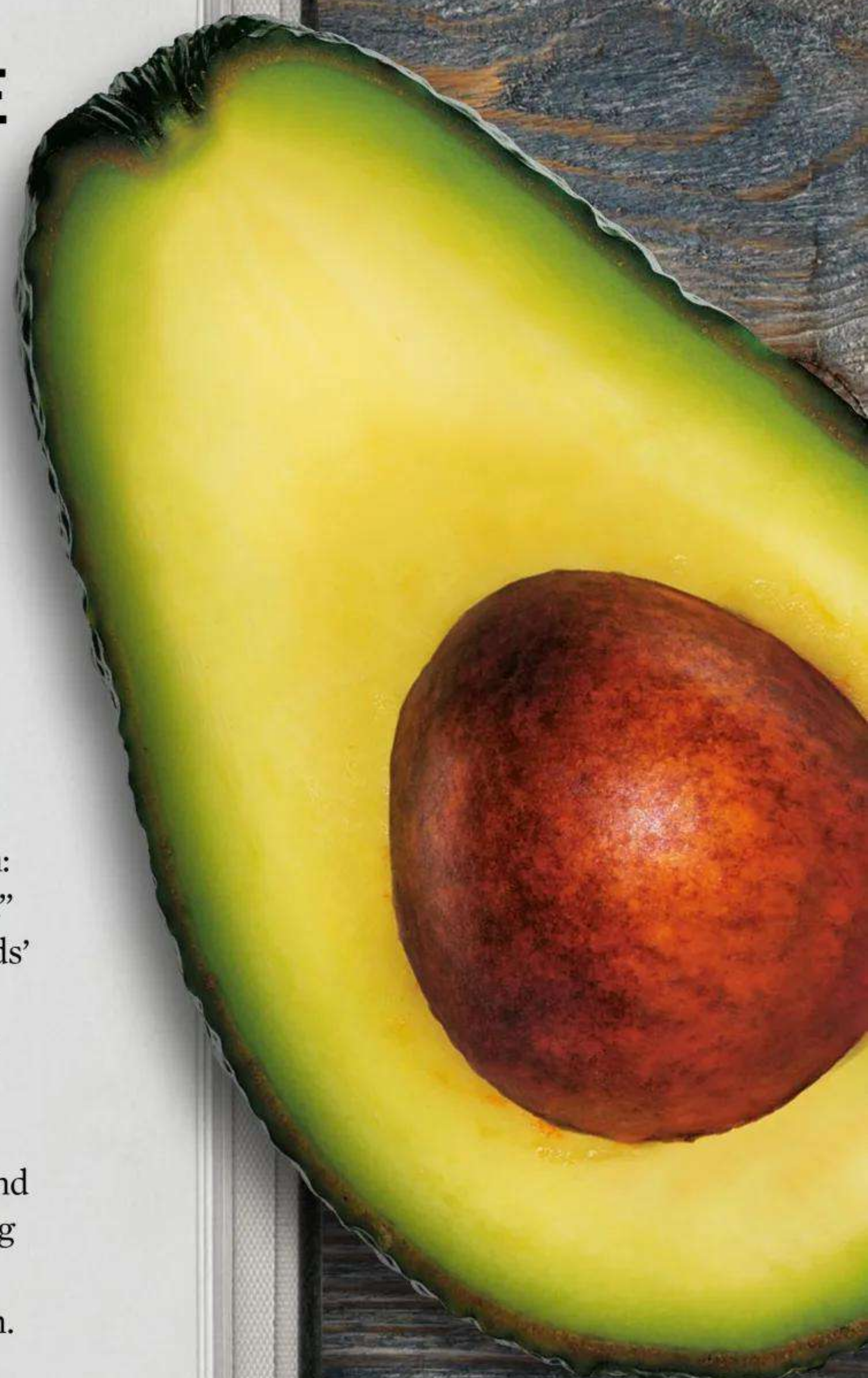
WORDS TANITA MATTHEWS

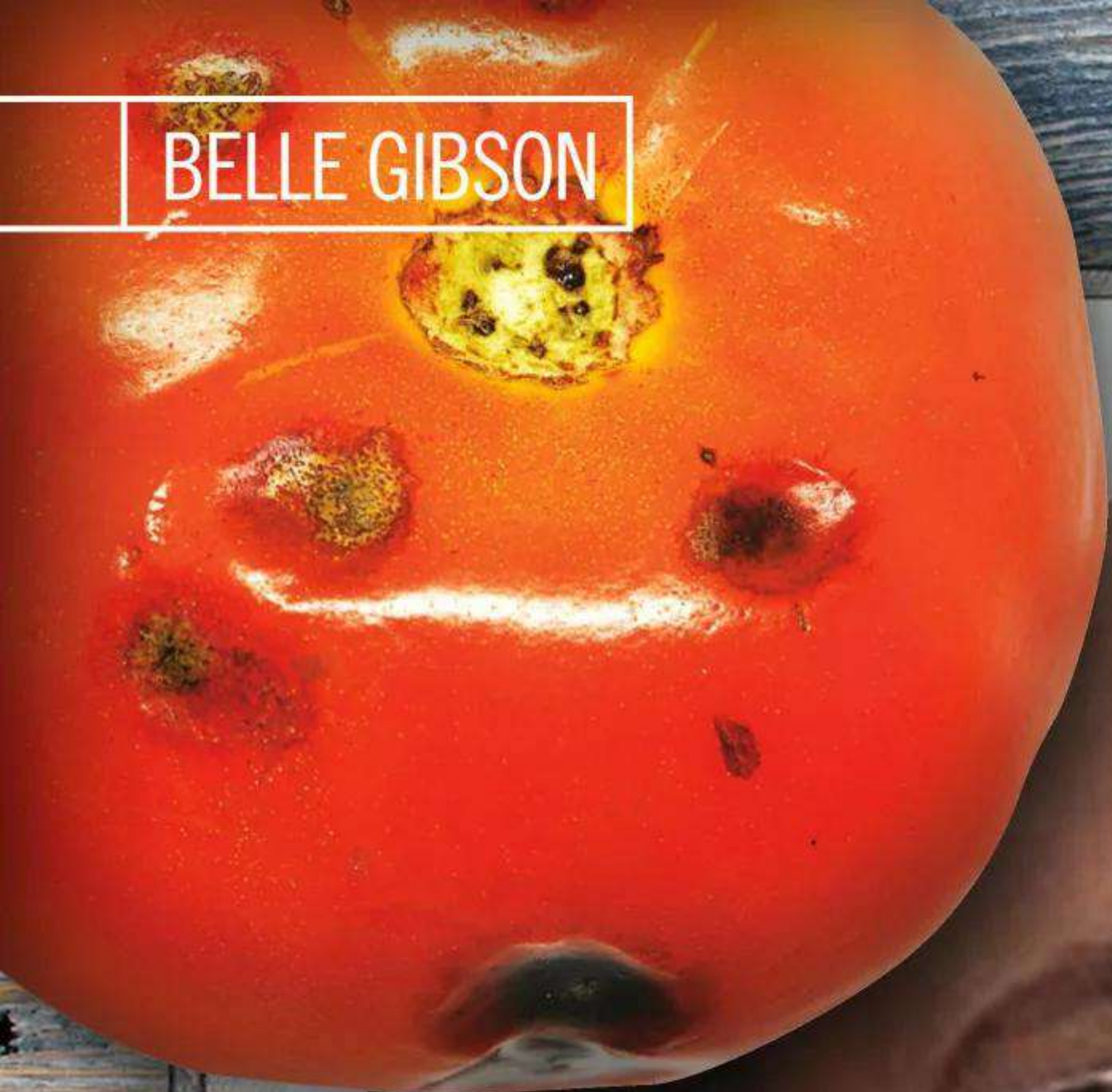
In 2015 cancer's bad rap gained a new negative association with a certain media darling whose wellness empire was built on lies. Australian mother Belle Gibson had burst onto social media with claims of healing a malignant brain tumour through natural and controversial therapies. Her app 'The Whole Pantry' had become an overnight sensation and her cookbook had taken the world by storm. Both had won backing from some of the biggest businesses in the world. There was just one problem: Gibson knew she didn't have cancer.

When Australian journalists Nick Toscano and Beau Donnelly dared to expose her as a liar, a cheat and a con artist, the fans that had fawned over her 'inspirational story' were aghast. It wasn't just that Gibson had lied about one of the most shattering illnesses to mankind, she had profited from their sympathy, becoming a celebrity because of their attention, and she had promised thousands of dollars to charities – but they had never received a cent.

A SPRINKLING OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2012 the photo-sharing social media platform Instagram was growing in popularity, boasting a whopping 10 million new users in a single month. One particular account set up that year was by a 21-year-old first time mother from Brisbane. Under the handle 'healing_belle', her bio read, "Belle Gibson: Gamechanger with brain cancer + a foodie obsession." The stream of pictures showed her diet of 'super foods' that she claimed were staving off the terminal brain tumour. She hadn't been expected to live longer than six weeks, yet here she was three years on, sharing inspirational quotes, pictures of her son Oli – whom she had given birth to in 2010 – recipes for healthy and natural meals, new smoothie concoctions for detoxing and hydrating the human body, and of course selfies, showing a surprisingly healthy-looking young woman.





At her son's fourth birthday Gibson feigned a seizure lasting 40 minutes in front of her friends but insisted she didn't need an ambulance. When they were convinced she began to fit again



She was also dishing out advice on how to naturally treat medical conditions away from conventional medicines. On her Facebook group '@TheWholePantry' she told fans, "I have been healing a severe and malignant brain cancer for the past few years with natural medicine, Gerson therapy and foods. It's working for me."

Real Crime spoke to Nick Toscano, a reporter with *The Age* newspaper in Victoria and co-author of the book *The Woman Who Fooled The World*. Speaking of Gibson's celebrity status, Toscano said, "She had a hugely popular Instagram page, hundreds of thousands of followers. Her fans were more than just followers, and she was more than just a chic Instagram celebrity. She was an inspiration to them and a hero. Many even spoke of feeling a spiritual connection with her." His co-author and former colleague Donnelly described Gibson as "infectious" and something of a "cult leader" at the height of her fame, offering a "cure to what is an incurable cancer".

In April 2013 Gibson registered the business name 'The Whole Pantry' and began working on building an app. She claimed she learned to write code to develop her app, but Toscano and Donnelly's book describes a much less hands-on approach than Gibson had promoted. Behind the scenes she employed developers to build her multimillion-dollar programme. Four months after the business was created, The Whole Pantry featured gluten free, paleo and vegan recipes, as well as health and wellness lifestyle guides and a selection of handy recipe tools. It became a success overnight and earned a number one rating in the app store in its debut month. By the end of the year global corporation Apple had named it the 'Best Food and Drink App' and the second best

iPhone app in the world, as well as taking the title of 'Best New Aussie App'.

A PINCH OF PUBLICITY

In September 2013 Gibson approached Penguin Australia and pitched a cookbook, hinging the proposal on her story about surpassing medical professionals' expectations of her diagnosis as a result of her "holistic and nutritional approach to wellbeing". She showcased her success with the app to Penguin's lifestyle imprint director, Julie Gibbs. In her contract she agreed she would not produce a product that was "a false representation" or contain information that was "misleading, or deceptive or likely to mislead or deceive". In July 2014 Gibson announced on Instagram that she had been diagnosed with two new cancers, leaving her blood, spleen, brain, uterus and liver riddled with the disease. When the book was published three months later, a 3,000 word prologue under the title 'The Story So Far' filled readers in on her heart-wrenching "dysfunctional childhood" and life-limiting diagnosis in 2009. She said that she was sat in a doctor's office after a stroke when she got the news, "You have malignant brain cancer Belle. You're dying. You have six weeks. Four months tops."

Gibson's version of events would change, later insisting that it was Dr Mark Johns, a neurologist and immunologist from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, who tested her at her home with a specialist machine, and then told her she had brain cancer. There is no evidence that any such person ever existed. Weeks after the book's launch, Gibson was crowned the winner of *Cosmopolitan* magazine's

ABOVE

Watchdogs claimed Gibson had misled and deceived people into buying her book by falsely claiming that the recipes and advice inside had cured her terminal brain tumour

ROTTEN TO THE CORE

GIBSON'S LIES ABOUT HER HEALTH KNEW NO BOUNDS. SHE ROUTINELY SUCKED UP SYMPATHY FROM UNSUSPECTING FANS

2005:

Gibson first claimed in an online forum that she was suffering from brain cancer.

2009:

Gibson took to a skateboarding chat room to describe how, during a surgery for her heart condition, she had died for almost three minutes on the operating table. She also claimed she suffered a stroke as a reaction to the Gardasil cervical cancer vaccine, and that the untraceable 'Mark Johns' diagnosed her with cancer in her home with the use of a machine described as an "old fashioned hard-drive with lights and metal sheets that you sat on".

2012:

Gibson took to Instagram to talk of healing herself of terminal brain cancer through natural remedies such as Gerson Therapy. Prior to these claims, in 2011 she had visited Dr Mark O'Reilly at Alfred Hospital in Melbourne, where she had received test results showing her to have a clean bill of health.

2014:

In a devastating Instagram post, Gibson claimed to have been diagnosed with new primary and secondary cancers. She said the disease had spread from her brain to her blood, liver, spleen and uterus

“GIBSON INSISTED SHE WAS SICK BUT COULDN'T PRODUCE A SINGLE SHRED OF EVIDENCE FOR HER CONDITION”

annual 'Fun Fearless Female Award' in its social media category. With 2015 around the corner, Gibson's publisher, the publishing giant Penguin, was keen to introduce her book to UK and US markets.

The Whole Pantry sold more than 16,000 copies within weeks of being published. Within two years, Gibson had racked up half a million dollars in royalties. But rumours about Gibson's health were circulating in the wellness industry. Bloggers and followers saw the announcement that she was developing new cancers, yet she was an entrepreneur full of energy. People began asking the most difficult and uncomfortable question about Gibson's condition: did she really have cancer?

A HEALTHY HELPING OF EVIDENCE

It was in early 2015 that Beau Donnelly first became aware of Gibson and her enterprise, when he got a tip from a former colleague about rumours of Gibson's scam. Donnelly contacted the source of these rumours, a woman named 'Chanelle' who was a close friend of Gibson's. Chanelle told him that many of Gibson's inner circle were worried that she was a fraud. They had tried to intervene, visiting her at her home, but that their questions about her diagnosis were met with vague answers. Gibson insisted she was sick but couldn't produce a single shred of evidence for her condition.

Working together in Victoria at *The Age* newspaper, Donnelly and Toscano looked into the claims and set about investigating Gibson's story. "I believed Chanelle, she piqued my interest," Donnelly told us when we contacted him. "So

Gibson rented a \$1,000 a week townhouse in Melbourne and leased office space for \$70,000 – but donated only \$10,000 to charity





Speaking to Tara Brown on Australia's *60 Minutes*, Gibson claimed she had been scammed by doctors into believing she was dying, despite tests in 2011 showing she was healthy



ABOVE In the Federal Court in Melbourne, months of investigations into Gibson's lies were collated and exposed. The judge passed a guilty sentence on Gibson, who did not attend court to face the guilty verdict

we dug into it and pulled everything that there was on the public record about Belle and everything she had said about her illness, her charitable donations, her history, her family and her age, and we just dissected it really and looked for inconsistencies. And we found many."

Toscano noticed that the way Gibson spoke of her cancer didn't seem 'natural': "What immediately struck us was that the details she offered up about her life and her health was always very vague. She never spoke in specifics, about family or friends or cities she was living in. She never named a hospital, or a doctor, or family or friends."

There's a saying that 'if it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck', and Gibson was no exception to this rule. "On top of all this, she simply never looked sick," Toscano said. "She didn't look like someone with cancer coursing through their veins. Instead, she looked vibrant and vital, the very picture of health." Taking their findings to several leading oncologists, their theory was confirmed. "Most doctors wanted to remain off the record, but all of them took one look at this summary and came back with the same answer: that's not how brain cancer works. It simply doesn't spread from the brain. None of the doctors believed her story."

A right to privacy is enshrined in modern democracy, which includes a person's medical records. Without such evidence, Toscano and Donnelly were unable to publish a story calling Gibson out on her fake illness. "This was by far the biggest hurdle we came up against during this time," said Toscano. "Although everything was pointing to the one conclusion – that Gibson was lying – there was still the question of what if we were wrong? What if her disease was a one-in-a-million, and she was, in reality, a brave young mum who was dying?"

Donnelly said that the pair were very concerned and cautious about how they were going to approach the topic. "For all we knew she might not have had terminal cancer but she might have had a benign tumour, she could have had

some other kind of illness, there could have been a mental illness there so we wanted to tread very careful to make sure that we were right." Lawyers at *The Age* agreed and told the journalists that such a story couldn't be published. But Gibson's Jenga tower of lies was starting to topple.

"So, instead, we thought to ourselves that if she's lying about this, then what else is she lying about? We didn't have to look very far." As well as being an advocate for her controversial methods in warding off her cancer, Gibson had also spoken keenly about her intention to give back to multiple charities. "In various different posts and in interviews and in the preface to her book, she had claimed that the majority, if not all, of her company's profits were being given away to charity," said Toscano. Gibson regularly named charities she was supporting, thrusting their names into the spotlight at her various fundraisers and gushing about their work in her interviews.

The biggest break in the story was about to come when Toscano and Donnelly contacted the charities, who stipulated that they hadn't received a single cent from Gibson – with some claiming they had never heard of her. The journalists found that neither Gibson nor her company were registered as fundraisers – a potentially prosecutable action in the eyes of consumer law. They contacted Gibson, whose reply to their questions about her claims was again met with vague answers. Within 40 minutes she donated AUD\$1,000 to one charity. She contacted the others and promised them that funds were on their way.

A DASH OF DESPERATION

Donnelly said, "Having reported on financial issues and business before, we knew we could definitely write that story. We knew there was no grey area there: she had raised money and she had kept it." *The Age* and other Fairfax Media titles published a story in March 2015 on Gibson's non-funding of charities with the profits of her business. "We expected



(left) Nick Toscano said that Gibson's story "exemplifies how journalism in the digital age is too frequently deserting one of its chief responsibilities – to report the news accurately". (right) Beau Donnelly said that perhaps industries will be more cautious when dealing with similar claims in the future

“TOSCANO AND DONELLY CONTACTED THE CHARITIES, WHO STIPULATED THAT THEY HADN'T RECEIVED A SINGLE CENT FROM GIBSON”

that within 24 hours the questions that would be raised on social media would very quickly turn to her health prognosis. In reality that happened much sooner: it happened within about 30 minutes. Very quickly she began to moderate the comments online and deleted everything that was critical or raised any questions about her medical condition.”

The Whole Pantry social media profiles began to be deleted in their entirety or made private, so as not to allow any more angry fans through the floodgates that had suddenly been thrown open. Gibson remained silent until April, when in an interview with Australia's *Women's Weekly* she finally admitted that she had fabricated her claims of having cancer.

Those who had believed in the wellness guru were livid and demanded she face jail, but was there any real threat of this? “Yes, it was a very real threat to Gibson,” said Toscano. “Her case, at least from the outside, fits the bill of the criminal charge in the state of Victoria of ‘obtaining financial advantage by deception’, or in other words criminal fraud.” It was decided that it would fall to Consumer Affairs

to prosecute Gibson, meaning she missed out on a potential criminal charge, and her case was instead referred to a civil court.

Gibson wasn't the only party to come under fire for the spread of her lies. Authorities favoured civil charges because that meant the case could also hold Gibson's cookbook publisher, Penguin Australia, to account for not fact-checking Gibson's story before publishing it. “Sources said Consumer Affairs wanted the case to fire a warning shot across the bows of the publishing industry, and for the Gibson case to be a fear factor of what could happen if they recklessly published unsubstantiated rubbish.”

On 15 March 2017 Federal Court Justice Debra Mortimer concluded that “most but not all” of Consumer Affairs Victoria's claims against Gibson were true. She was fined AUD\$410,000 after Mortimer said, “Ms Gibson had no reasonable basis to believe she had cancer from the time she began making these claims in public to promote *The Whole Pantry* book and the apps in mid-2013.” We asked Donelly if he felt the punishment for Gibson's crimes were fitting, and he agreed that the judge had done a good job in presiding over such a complex case. But he suggested that a more fitting punishment would be for Gibson to partake in some community service with those truly suffering from cancer, something Consumer Affairs had the opportunity to petition for but, for reasons unknown, didn't.

Penguin was fined \$30,000, and according to Toscano, “in a landmark order, had to agree to include prominent disclaimers in the front of every book it publishes that contains claims about alternative, natural, nutritional or holistic therapies that can treat illnesses. The notice must explain that these therapies are not evidence-based or proven to provide any medical benefit.”

Gibson did not attend court, and since her demise as a wellness guru she has remained silent about her story, except for a television interview with *60 Minutes* journalist Tara Brown, where Gibson admitted she had wronged the cancer community with her lies. She still showed little remorse for swaying dying patients away from conventional therapies that could perhaps have saved them.

The Woman Who Fooled The World by Nick Toscano and Beau Donelly is published by Scribe and is available to buy now



A SLICE OF THE PROFITS

FOOLING THE WORLD INTO THINKING SHE WAS A WELLNESS GURU AND A SMART, SAVVY BUSINESSWOMAN, GIBSON RAKED IN HUGE AMOUNTS OF CASH

\$300,000

The amount Gibson claimed she had donated to charity

\$420k

Profits from *The Whole Pantry* book and app

\$132,500

Paid to Gibson by publishers (via three instalments) in advance for her cookbook

300k

Downloads of Gibson's \$3.79 app

\$1187.62

The amount Gibson paid a month on her BMW X3

\$1k

Gibson's weekly rent for her beachside townhouse in Wilton Grove

\$70k

A lease signed by Gibson for an office space in South Melbourne

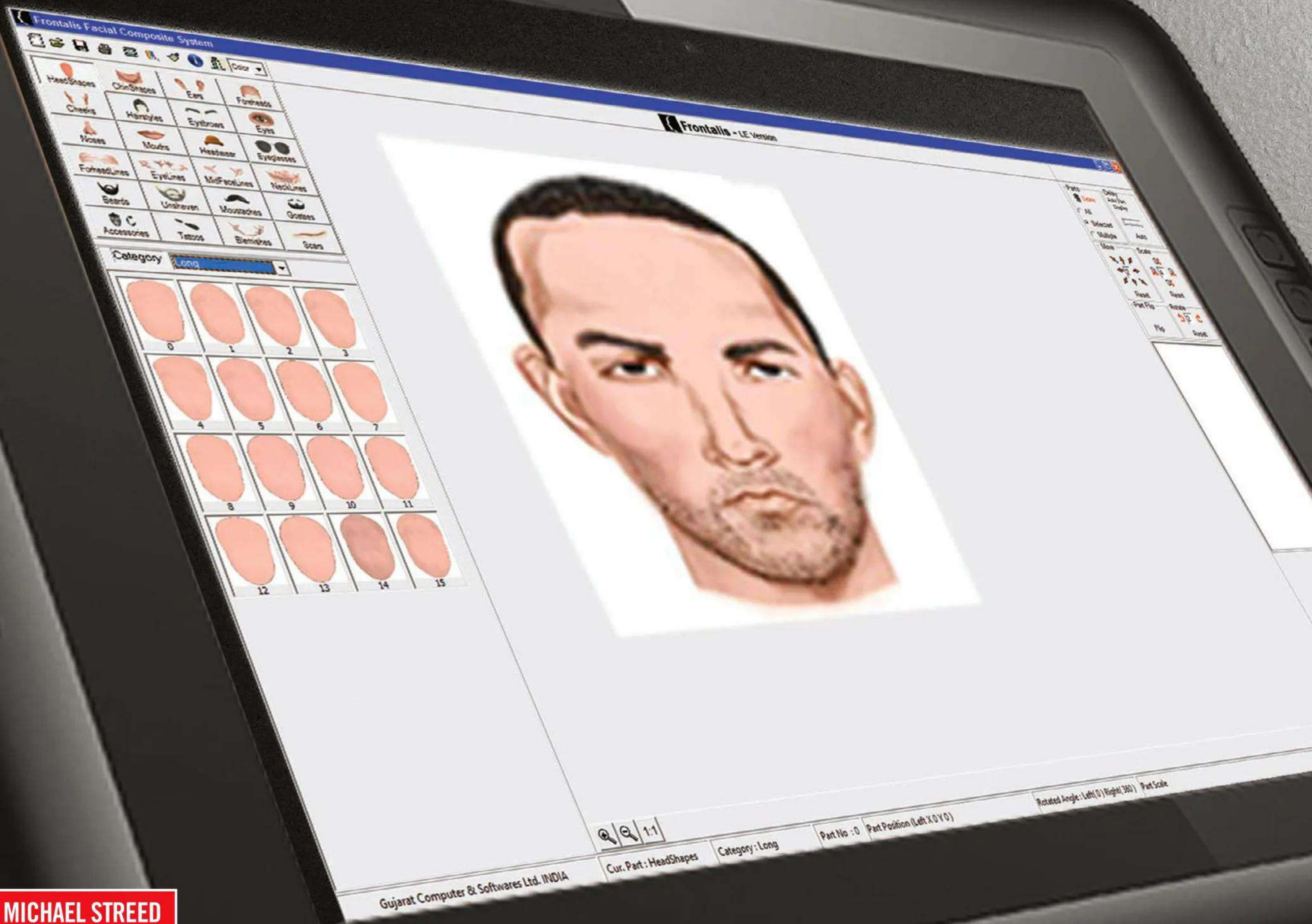
\$45,000

Paid to Gibson by Australian news show *60 Minutes* in the wake of her lies being exposed

16,000

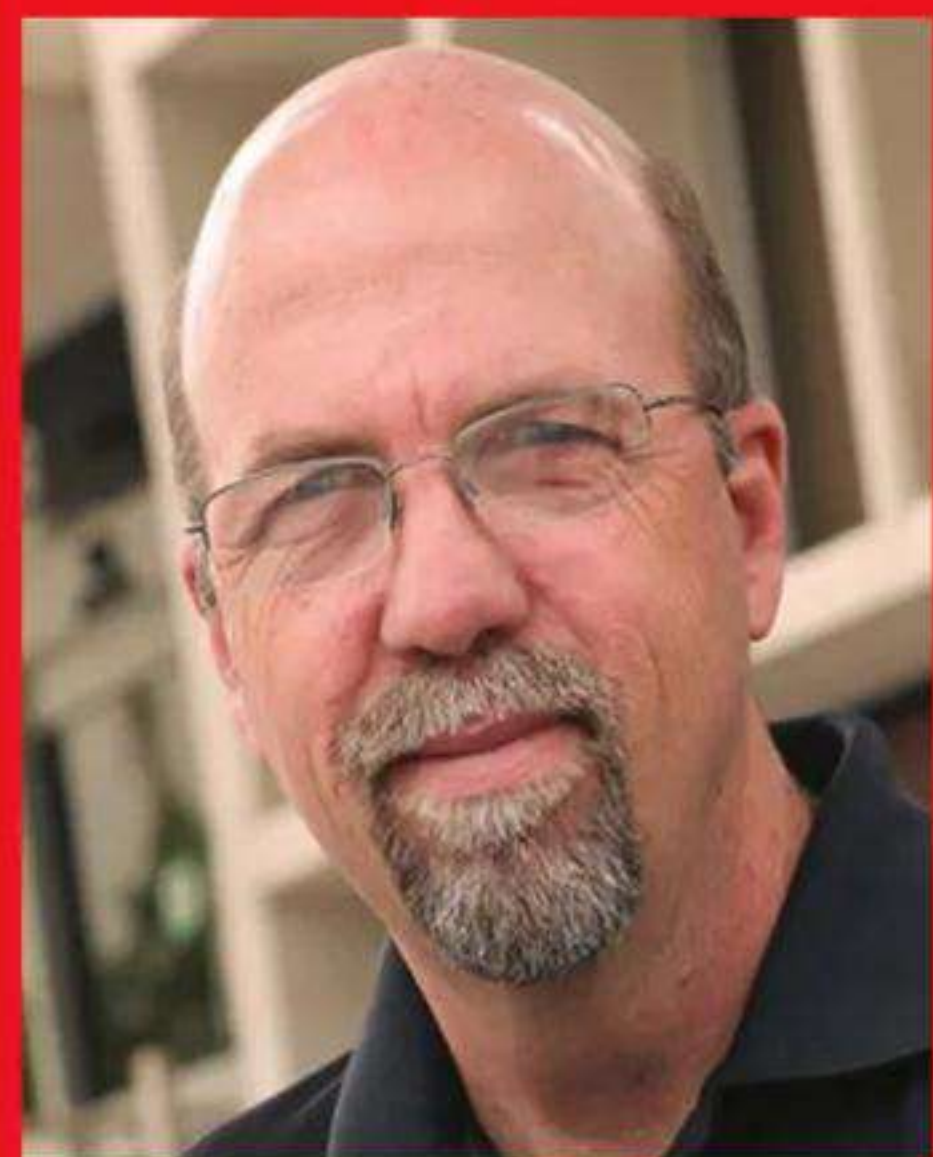
Copies of *The Whole Pantry* that were sold in two months

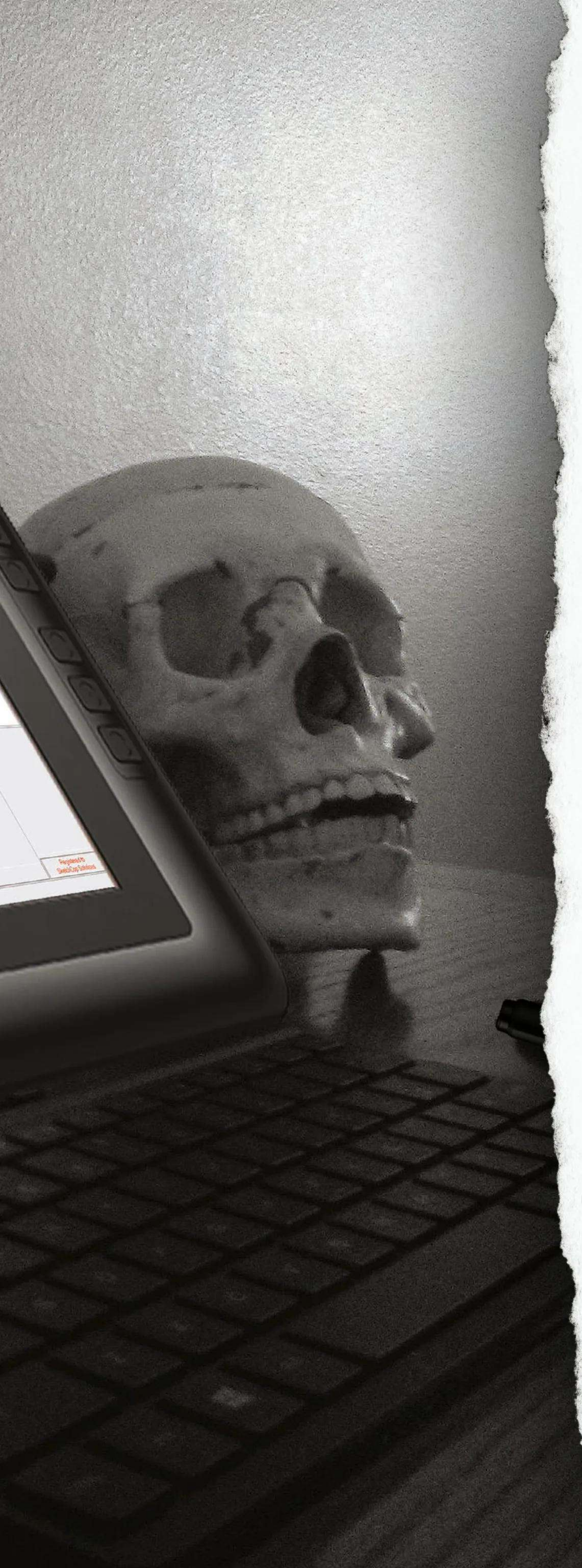
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BIO | MICHAEL STREED

Currently living in California, USA, Michael Streed is a retired police sergeant and forensic sketch artist. His book *Sketchcop: Drawing A Line Against Crime* is available to buy from wildbluepress.com. You can find out more about his forensic artistry business at www.SketchCop.com





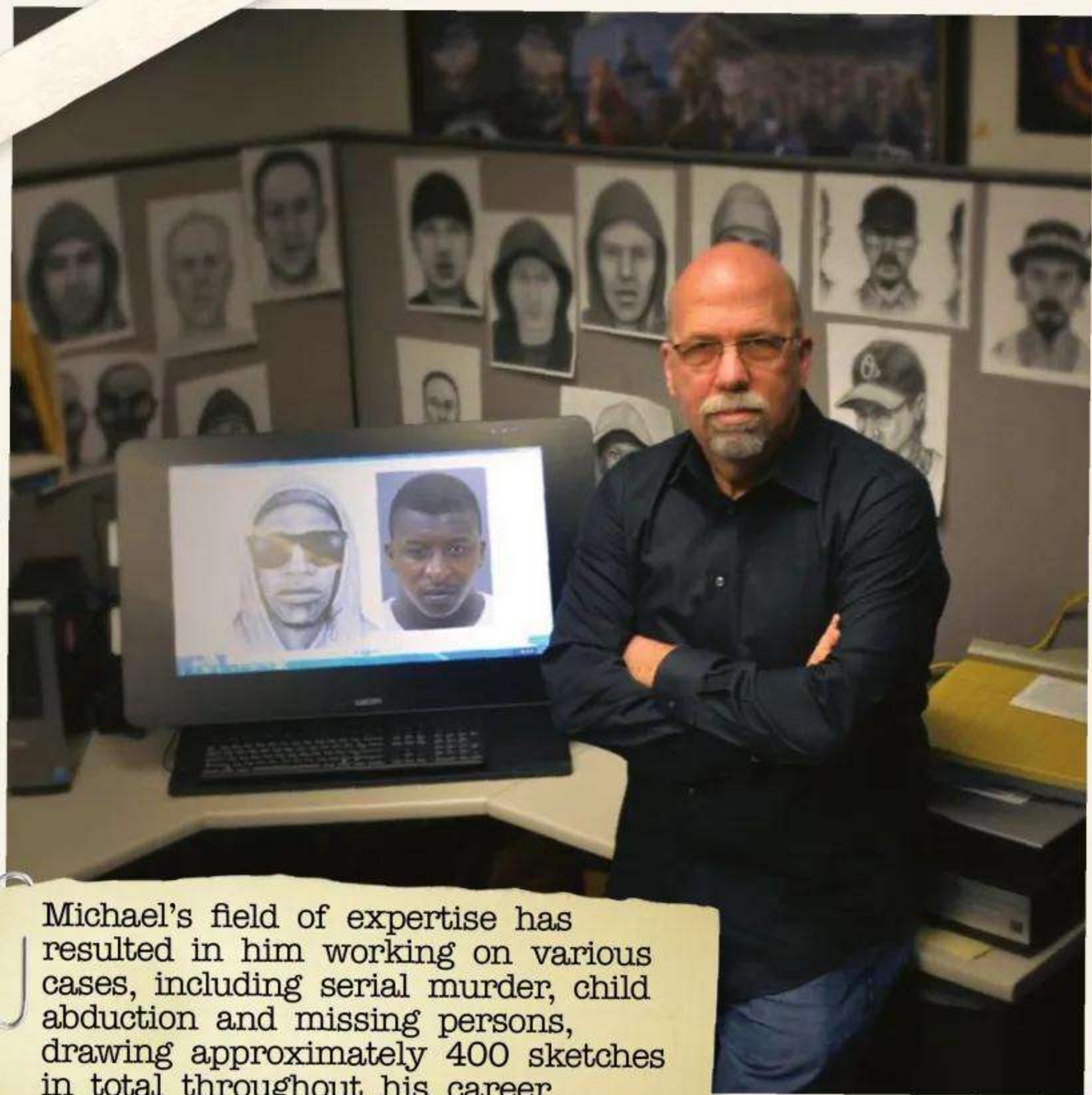
INTERVIEW

THIN GREY LINE

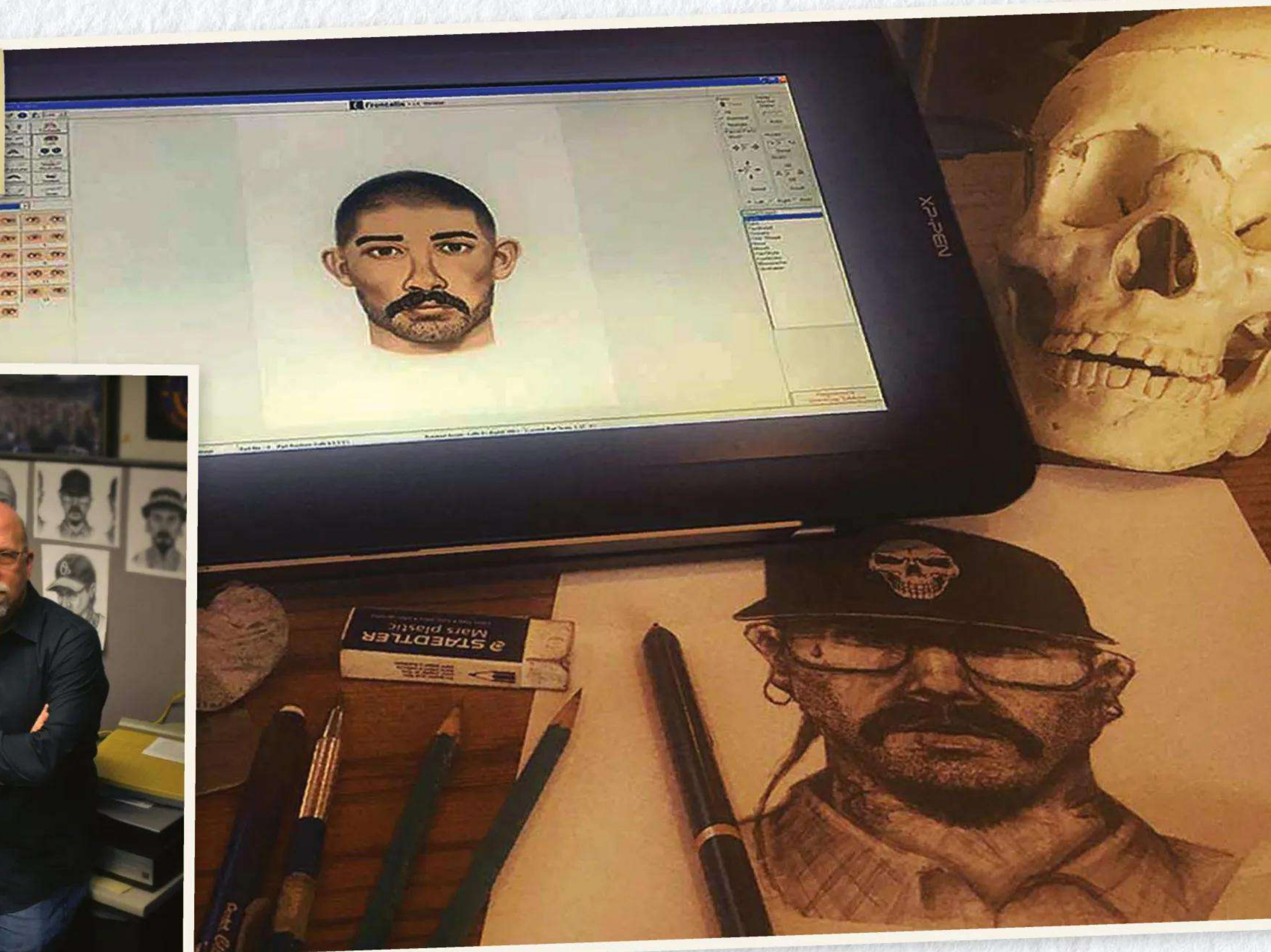
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, BUT FOR FORENSIC ARTIST MICHAEL STREED, A THOUSAND WORDS AMOUNT TO A POTENTIALLY LIFE-CHANGING PICTURE THAT WILL HELP STOP A CRIMINAL IN THEIR TRACKS

WORDS TANITA MATTHEWS

Technology, in the span of Michael's career as a forensic artist has progressed, but Michael insists that while new software for drawing has helped, it hasn't replaced the requirement for good training and people skills



Michael's field of expertise has resulted in him working on various cases, including serial murder, child abduction and missing persons, drawing approximately 400 sketches in total throughout his career

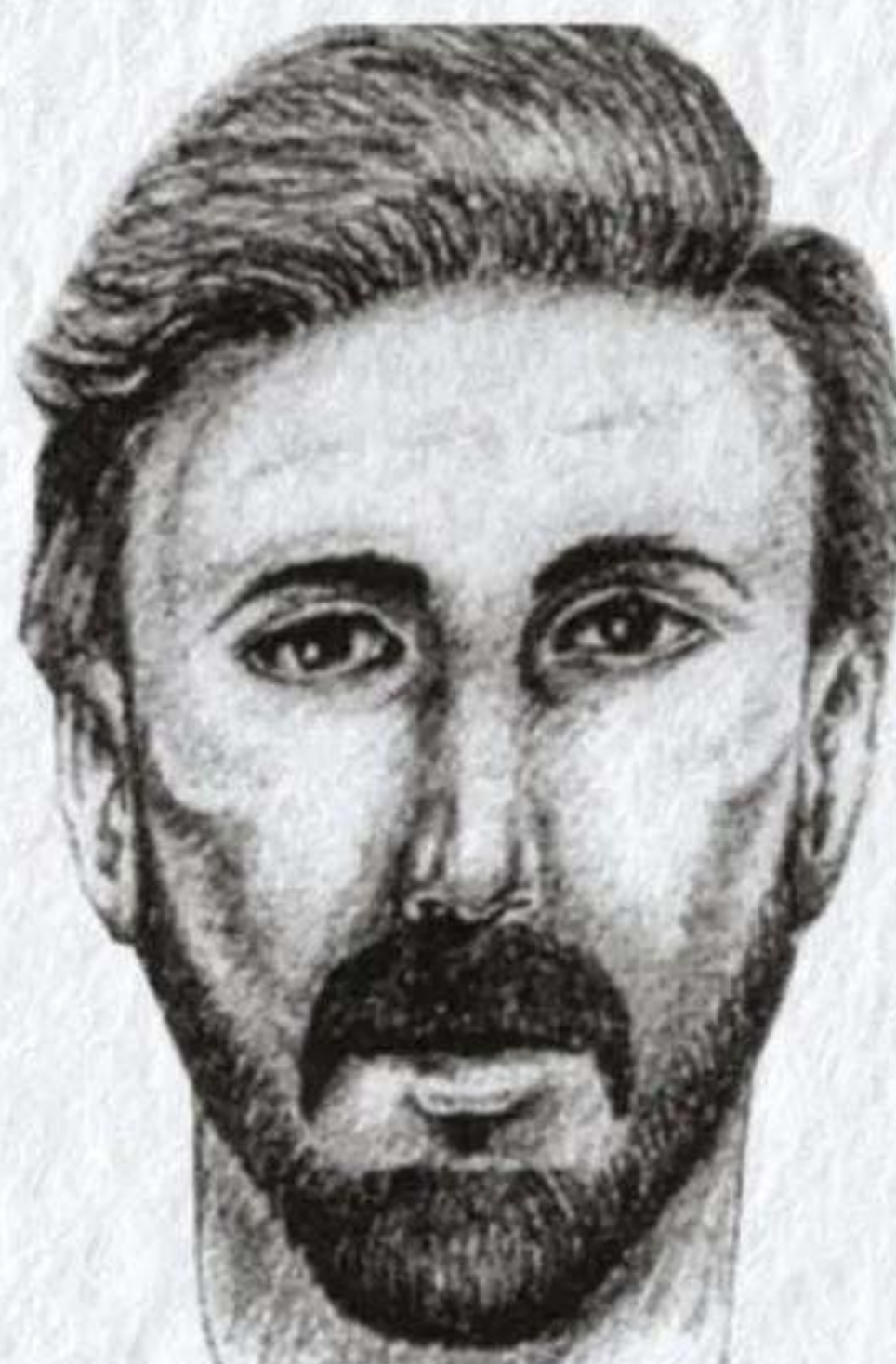


There is one thing many of the world's best-known criminals have in common, from the furrowed brow of the Zodiac Killer, to the buzz cut hairstyle of Oklahoma City Bomber Timothy McVeigh, to the shadowy hooded figure of the so-called Unabomber Ted Kaczynski: each of them is recognisable from the shaded sketches drawn by forensic artists like Michael Streed every year. You may have seen their composite sketches on the evening news. You've probably studied their mottled features to see if you recognise them. Perhaps something in the details struck you as familiar? But have you ever stopped to consider the process behind an often-fundamental piece of evidence that helps bring serial killers, child abductors and bank robbers to justice time and time again?

Speaking to us from his home in the US, Michael Streed, author of *Sketchcop: Drawing A Line Against Crime*, talks us through his three-and-a-half decade career sketching high-profile criminals, as well as his 31-year commitment to the police force as an officer in California. He recounts for us his connection to the Baton Rouge Killer case, the way in which technology has improved the lives of forensic artists like himself, as well as what more advanced training could have meant for those tasked with sketching the accused in our cover feature, The Golden State Killer.

Tell us a bit about how you transitioned into your career as a police sketch artist.

Like most kids I doodled a lot and always had a thing for cartoons from an early age. I thought it would be the coolest job on the planet to sit around and draw cartoons all day. My father was a police officer so I was always surrounded by these amazing people who had great stories. As I reached



the end of my high school career and had to pick a 'real job' I thought police work was something to try. Back then there was the whole reference to the 'starving artist' and so I went into police work. It wasn't until I saw a composite sketch on the evening news that I thought, "Now there's a way to combine art and my love for public safety." I started contacting people and taking training classes, and it just kind of grew from there.

Tapping into someone's memory, especially after a traumatic incident, must be tricky. How do you proceed when you're trying to extract information from a particularly traumatised witness?

There isn't a one-size-fits-all interview. We use what's called a cognitive interview, which is actually driven by the eyewitness and/or victim and not so much the officer. Typical police interviews are driven by the investigator or officer and can be construed as being very leading – we ask direct questions that at times can be seen as suggestive and very limiting, whereas in a cognitive interview we ask more open-ended questions. I might interview you at the scene of the crime as an officer and ask, "Did he have blue eyes or brown eyes?" As an artist I would say, "Tell me about his eyes and be as descriptive as you can." We can ask more direct questions from that, but it's totally driven by the eyewitness – we just kind of keep them within the guidelines and help them stay focused. Sometimes it's OK to just let the person talk, because while I'm there to provide an investigative resource to my fellow police investigators, I'm also there to be one of the first steps in helping these people heal from their trauma.

Every artist has their own technique, but for me, while they're talking about the trauma, I may be drawing the

FACE TO FACE

COMPOSITE SKETCHES HAVE BEEN VITAL IN IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS SERIAL KILLERS. CAN YOU GUESS THEM FROM THEIR SKETCHES? TURN THE PAGE TO REVEAL THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES

“ THEY WALK OUT OF THERE FEELING VERY PROUD AND VERY HAPPY THAT THEY GOT TO POSITIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLVING OF THEIR OWN CASE ”

sketch and slipping in questions that they'll answer, and I'll draw and keep them talking, and before you know it, there's a sketch that's finished. They walk out of there feeling very proud and very happy that they got to positively contribute to the solving of their own case.

You helped the FBI develop a curriculum for their training on creating composite sketches. What was that experience like?

It was very interesting because back in the early 1980s, when there was a resurgence and an interest in training artists from around the world, the FBI – being the leading law enforcement agency here in the United States – was able to secure the funding. So now all of a sudden they have the money for funding, but the question was ‘what do we train? How are we going to train?’

So what they did was put out an ad in their industry magazine asking for anyone who's interested in participating in the committee, and I was lucky enough to be selected. A group of us got together in the FBI academy at Quantico, Virginia, and hammered out the curriculum, and from that the course was born. I was very humbled to be there because the smart thing they did was they took people from all experience levels. So at the time I was one of the least experienced, I was just starting out, so you had my perspective as a newbie and you had other people who were very well-established already and very experienced, and had taken on some very high-profile cases. So it was great to be in that mix of people.

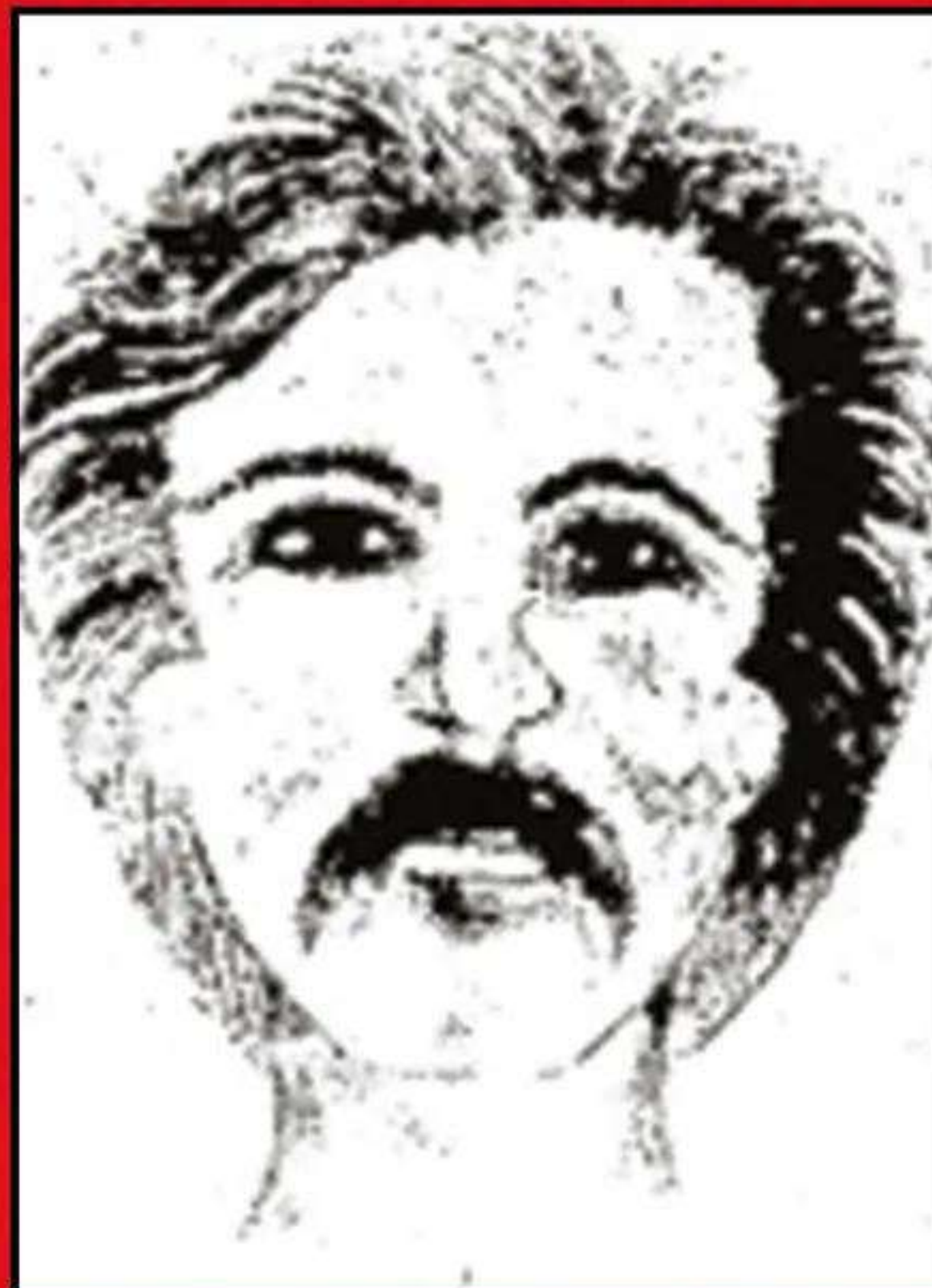
Are there any other sketches you've drawn that have turned out to be high-profile criminals, or have you ever come into close contact with any high-profile cases?

Most of the high-profile cases that I've been involved in have involved children. I had a particular case where a five-year-old girl [Samantha Runnion] was abducted off the street by a stranger, who later sexually assaulted and murdered her. The only witness at the time was her five-year-old playmate. She provided a sketch that was pivotal in identifying this person,



SATANIC MONSTER

13-year-old James Romero Jr. spotted this serial killer prowling outside his California home on the evening of 25 May 1985, before the prowler fled in his car. James made note of the car and phoned police, believing he had thwarted a thief. But the suspect was connected to more than a dozen murders, multiple rapes and burglaries. That same night the suspect attacked a couple. They survived and described their attacker to police.



LADY KILLER

After multiple disappearances of women in Washington in 1974, police released a composite sketch of the suspect to the public. This suspect turned out to be one of the world's most notorious serial killers, who raped and killed women in states such as Washington, Colorado, Utah and California until 1978.



LOUISIANA PROWLER

This serial killer murdered several women between 1992 and 2003 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A surviving victim, who had been attacked on 9 July 2002, described him to police. Police had (incorrectly) assumed the serial killer operating in the area was Caucasian. A composite sketch was drawn up. Police tracked him down in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2003.



CALIFORNIA SNATCHER

Five-year-old Samantha Runnion was snatched from her own front garden in California on 15 July 2002. The only eyewitness was her five-year-old playmate who provided forensic artist Michael Streed with a description of her friend's abductor. Samantha's body was found the following day. She had been sexually assaulted and murdered.



because within 48 hours of this sketch being released to the media two different people called and provided a name. After his DNA sample matched he was arrested, tried and given a death sentence.

The other case involved a ten-year-old boy [Anthony Martinez] who was abducted by a stranger off the street in the presence of his eight and ten-year-old brother and cousin. He was also sexually assaulted and murdered. That particular case was very frustrating, because you would expect a quick identification due to the heightened public interest [in child abductions], but this case went cold for eight years until someone was identified. This particular suspect [Joseph Edward Duncan III] murdered another family in another state and then abducted some children and murdered one of them. He was identified by a quick-thinking waitress when he brought the victim into a restaurant. He was arrested and is sitting on death row right now.

There was a serial killer operating in the 1990s in the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana [Derrick Todd Lee, the 'Baton Rouge Killer'] and he was killing college co-eds in the area. What had happened was he had been involved with attacks in a small town outside of Baton Rouge, and I produced a composite of the suspect and was able to provide a larger task force with a name. Unfortunately there was some inter-agency rivalries involved in that and the information wasn't taken as seriously as it could have been. It wasn't until they caught the person that they realised that the actual sketch was pivotal in the case.

It was actually the first case where I had used some facial composite software that was considered to be the latest and greatest at the time. The TV program *America's Most Wanted* flew me from California to Louisiana to try the software out, and so I used the software on the case and it worked for that period of time, but there were some limitations to it that eventually spurred me to develop my own software.

Let's talk about the Golden State Killer. He was drawn dozens of times over the years by various sketch artists, and some of the images are wildly different to others. What problems can multiple witnesses and sketch artists pose to investigators?

A composite sketch is based upon your perception – how you witnessed it, how you observed it, how you processed it, how

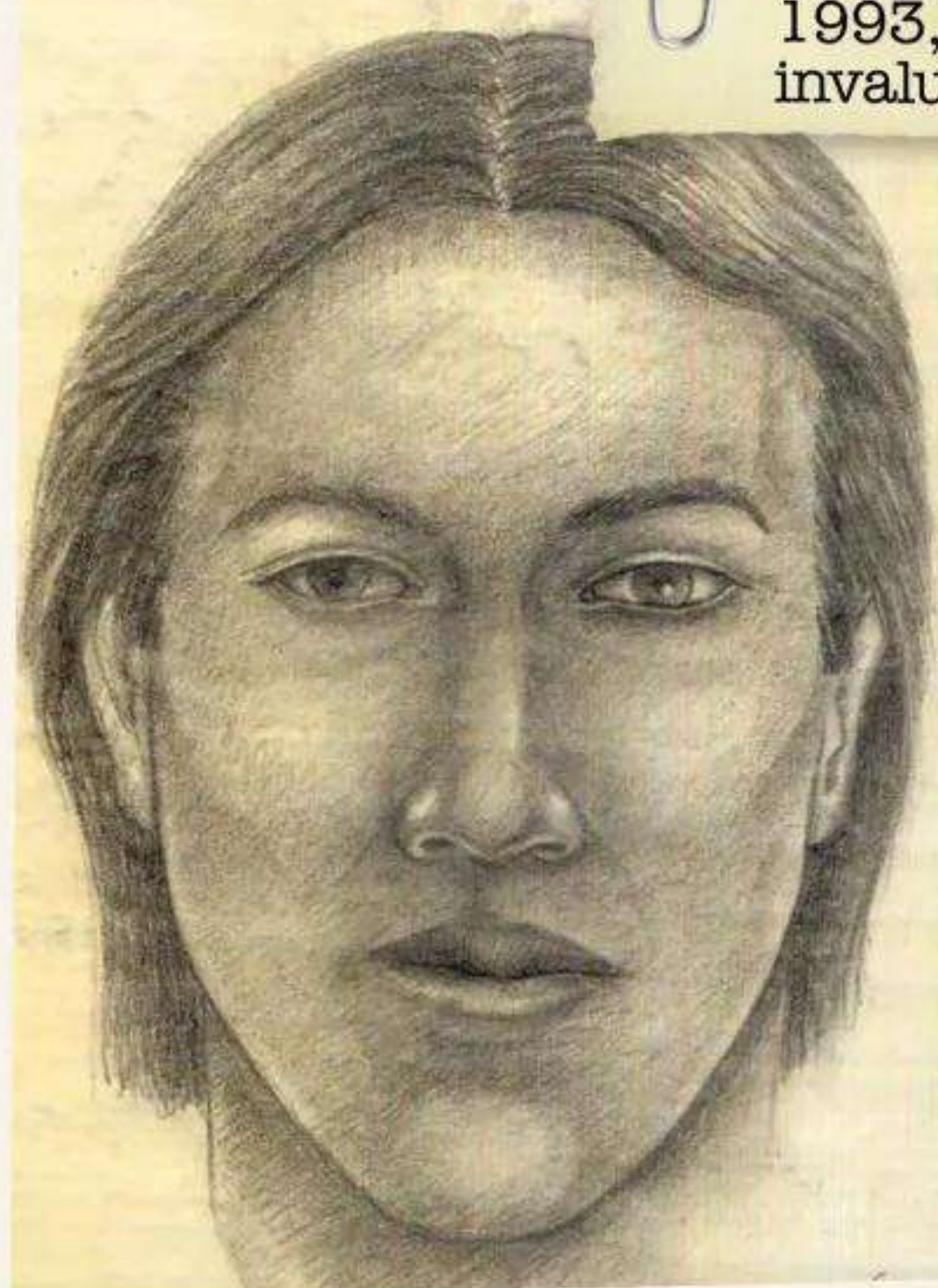
“ A COMPOSITE SKETCH IS BASED UPON YOUR PERCEPTION, HOW YOU WITNESSED IT... HOW YOU PROCESSED IT, HOW YOU RETELL IT. OUR JOB... IS TO RETRIEVE THE EYEWITNESS MEMORY ”

you retell it – and our job as sketch artists is to retrieve the eyewitness memory. You have a variety of different scenarios under which the Golden State Killer was observed by a variety of people with different education levels, different verbal skills, and sometimes the crimes took place in total darkness or limited lightings, and so there's just a whole bunch of different scenarios.

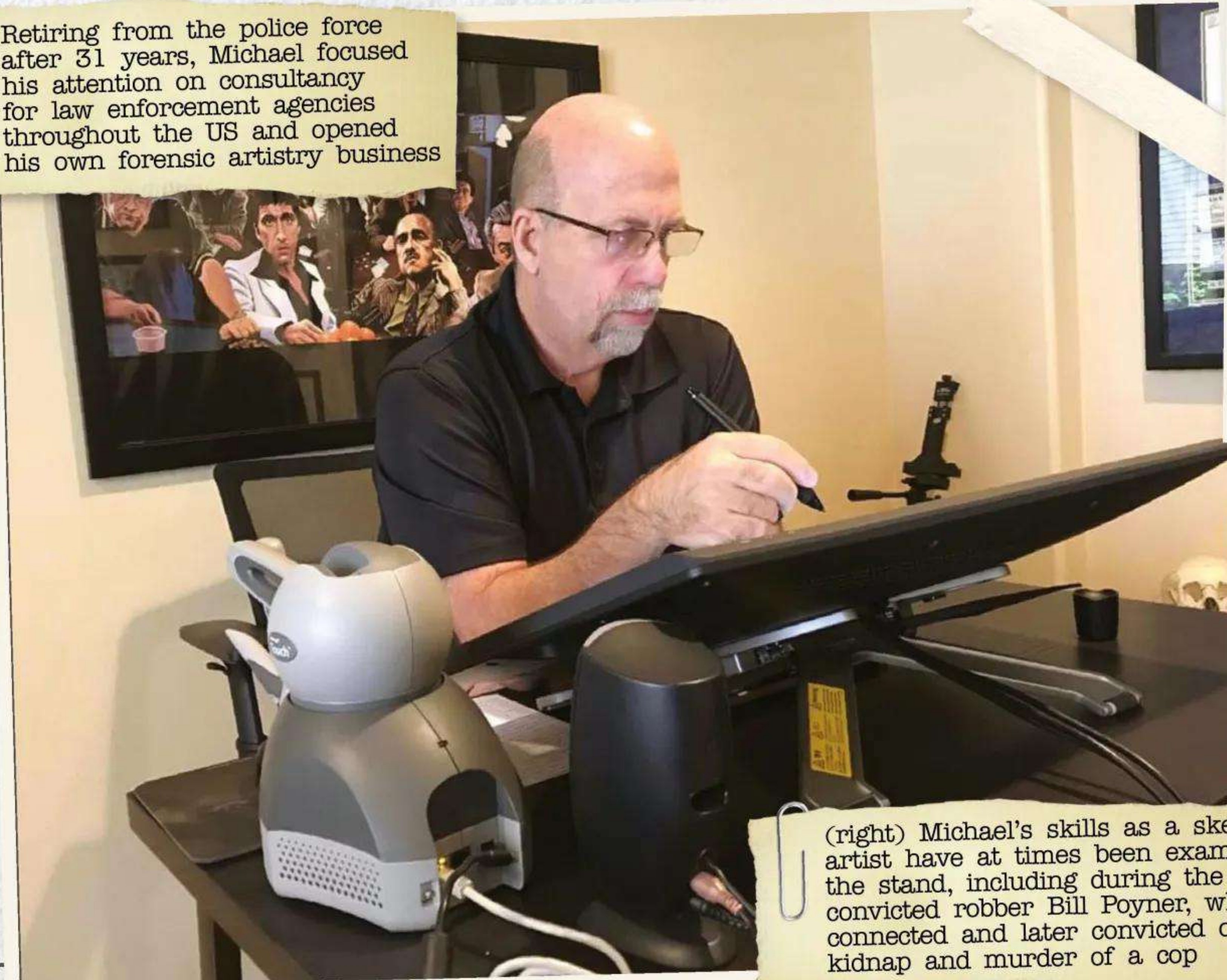
The thing is you're also looking at a variety of artists who do those sketches under just some horrific conditions. And we talk about the eyewitness and the people who were victims of the crime, but how about the sketch artists? What was their experience level? Had they had proper training? My question is: how could those composite images change or be more accurate if all the sketch artists involved had been offered better training at that point in time?

We do the best we can with what we've got, and they all did a very good job based upon the pressure on them by police and the public, as well as working with people who weren't necessarily being difficult, but were involved in a difficult set of circumstances that none of us could imagine or hope to be involved in. I think if you look through all of the sketches there are common facial features that, while they were drawn in a different style, they look similar enough that at one point I wanted to take them and synthesize all of those

Charles Taylor (pictured) and his brother Allan went missing in 1978. Reconstructing the face from skeletal remains found in 1993, Michael's sketch of the victim proved invaluable in solving their disappearance



Retiring from the police force after 31 years, Michael focused his attention on consultancy for law enforcement agencies throughout the US and opened his own forensic artistry business



(right) Michael's skills as a sketch artist have at times been examined on the stand, including during the trial of convicted robber Bill Poyner, who was connected and later convicted of the kidnap and murder of a cop

MULTI AGENCY HOMICIDE TASK FORCE



WANTED

DERRICK TODD LEE

RACE BLACK
SEX MALE
DATE OF BIRTH NOVEMBER 05, 1968
HEIGHT 6'01"
WEIGHT 210
EYES BROWN
HAIR BLACK
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS 4273 HWY 61 S
ST. FRANCISVILLE, LA.



Suspect is wanted for the **SERIAL MURDERS** of at least five south Louisiana Women. Suspect is to be considered Armed and Dangerous. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of this suspect is encouraged to contact their local law enforcement immediately or the

Multi Agency Homicide Task Force

1-800-392-0000

One of the biggest cases of Michael's career came when he sketched the man who would ultimately be identified as a Louisiana serial killer

into one drawing based on the commonality in some of the more predominant facial features.

How has the progression of technology in the last few decades impacted your career?

For me it's the tools I use now and tools that others use. When I first started, I used a number two pencil and a sheet of copy paper from the Xerox machine – a cheap piece of bond paper and a cheap pencil, and that was it. Those who couldn't draw were using those flip books with cellophane sheets of acetate that would have noses and eyes on, and put together sketches that way.

Now we're using digital styluses, iPads and pen displays where we draw right on screens, and sophisticated software programs that emulate the pencil and brushes you would normally use. Composite software programs have algorithms that help to build the faces based on the eyewitness making a selection from the computer.

I use the tools that best fit the case. I think it's like anything else, they're just things that help create a more efficient workflow to get to the eventual end. The digital stylus and software programs allow you to create a library so you're not drawing the same thing over and over again. These are shortcuts and tools that help you get there faster and better, but that doesn't address the time it takes you to get the information from an eyewitness. The composite sketch software program, it opens up the opportunity for people who can't draw and paint to create a facial composite of suspects, and that's really great for police departments because they don't all have someone who can draw, but they have a 24/7 solution and they can create faces at the click of the mouse. Both are limited in terms of their use and success by being able to effectively communicate with an eyewitness and proper training.

Does it ever get frustrating when your image is put to the public and no leads are generated?

It's definitely frustrating because I'm 'in it to win it' so to speak. I want someone to be caught and want some justice for the victims, the eyewitnesses, these very courageous people who took a lot to come forward. So yes, it can be frustrating, but you just have to keep going forward with the next drawing and the next case and hope for a better result.



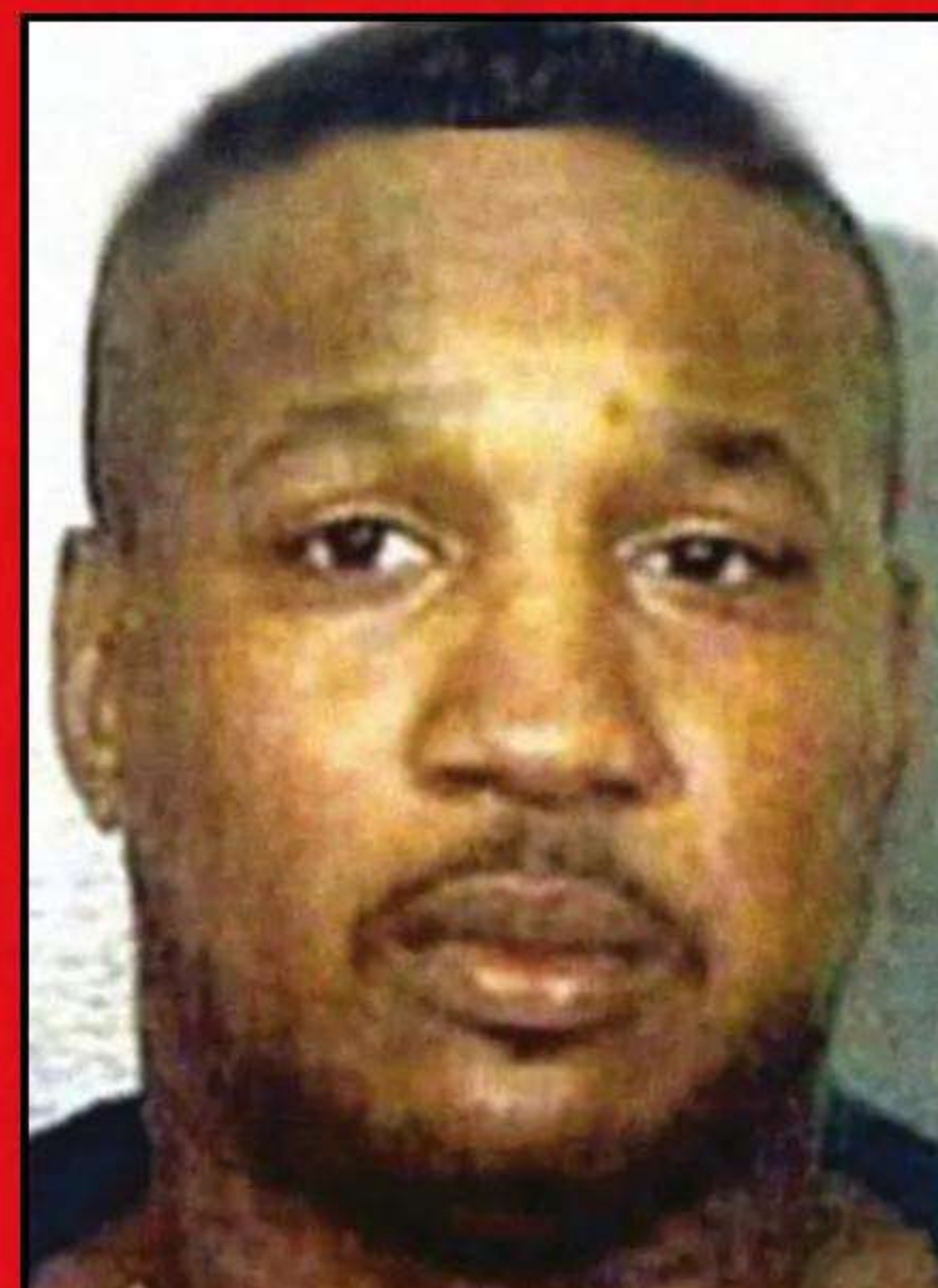
RICHARD RAMIREZ

Richard Ramirez was apprehended on 30 August 1985 in Arizona. Police tracked him down thanks to the composite sketches provided by James and Ramirez's last surviving victims. On 20 September 1989, Ramirez was convicted of 13 counts of murder, five attempted murders, 11 sexual assaults and 14 burglaries.



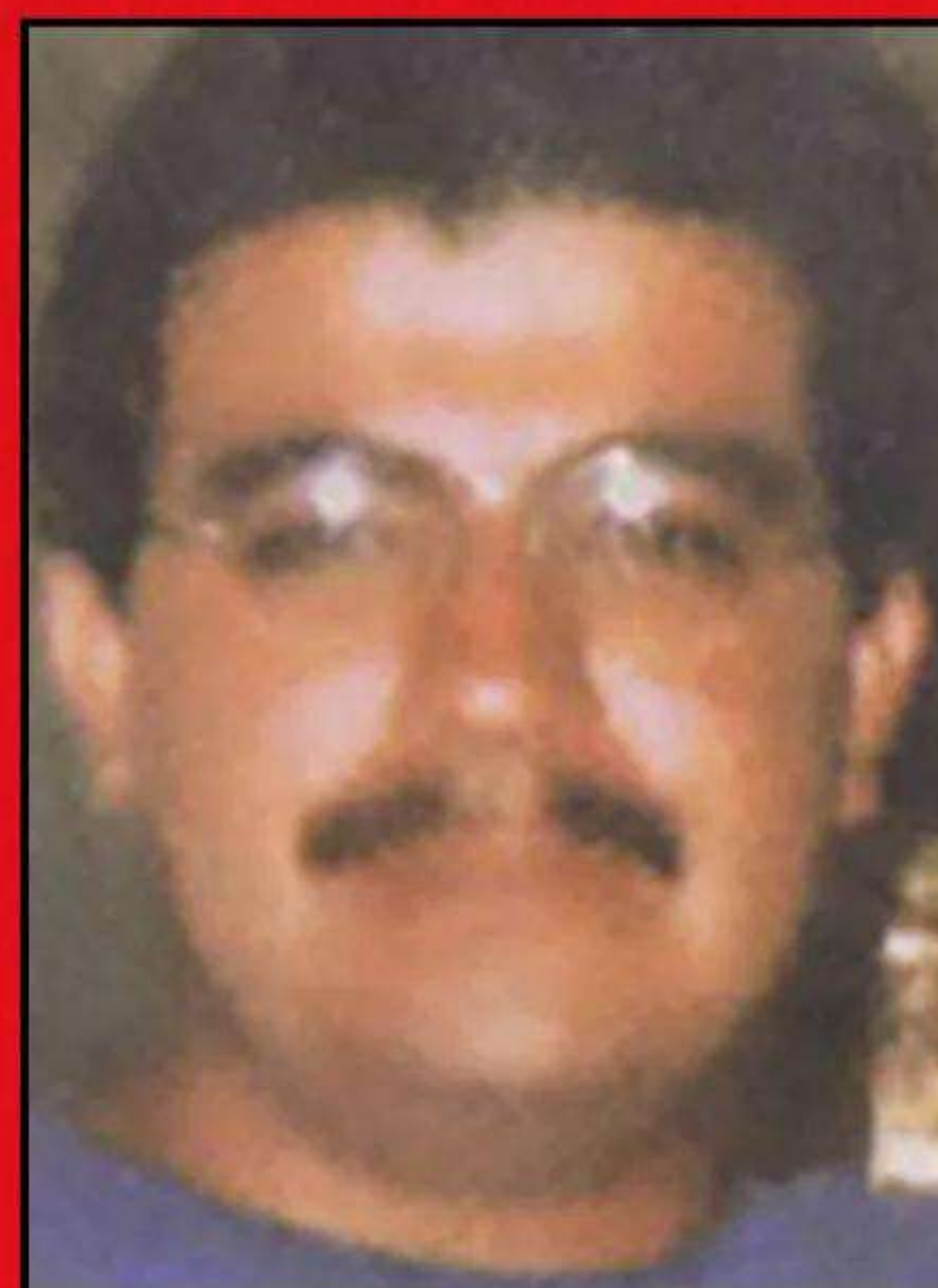
TED BUNDY

Multiple people recognised the composite sketch to be that of Ted Bundy and the car as his Volkswagen Beetle. They all reported Bundy as a suspect, but police did not initially think the law student was the man responsible for the disappearances and (later) murders of multiple women.



DERRICK TODD LEE

Derrick Todd Lee was extradited to Baton Rouge and tried in August 2004 for the (2002) murder of Geryl Barr DeSoto and later, multiple other victims. He was sentenced to death and placed on death row at Louisiana State Penitentiary. He died in January 2016 from heart disease.



ALEJANDRO AVILA

Within 48 hours of the composite sketch of the Hispanic man driving a light green Honda being released to the public, two people came forward and provided police with a name of the suspect. Alejandro Avila was caught on 23 July 2002 and convicted of Samantha's murder in 2005.

MELBOURNE'S

UNDER



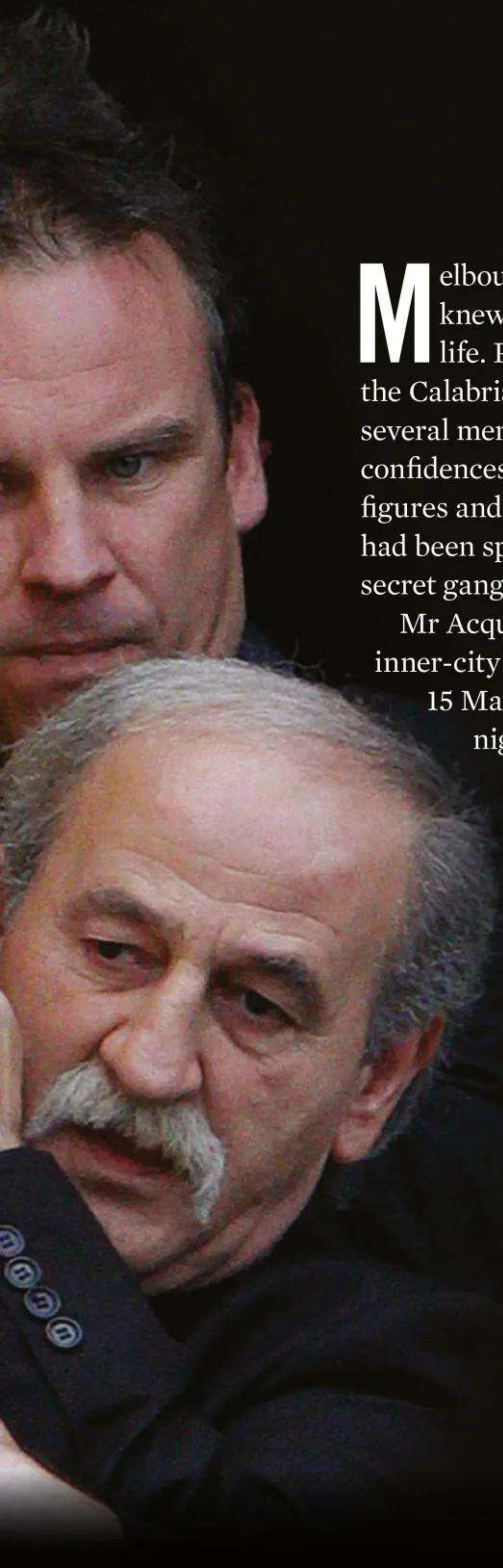


MELB

TALE OF A BLOODY GANGLAND WAR

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE BETWEEN 1998 AND 2010, DOZENS WERE KILLED AS WARRING GANGLAND GROUPS PLAYED TIT-FOR-TAT IN SLAYINGS IN THE SUBURBS ACROSS THE CITY

WORDS EMILY WEBB



Melbourne businessman and lawyer Joe Acquaro knew that there was a \$200,000 contract out on his life. Police had warned him. With strong links to the Calabrian community, Mr Acquaro had represented several members of Melbourne's gangland. He'd had the confidences of some of the city's most powerful underworld figures and a few of them were worried that Mr Acquaro had been speaking with investigative reporters about their secret gangster business.

Mr Acquaro owned a popular business called Gelobar in inner-city Brunswick East. At about 12.40am on Tuesday 15 March 2016, he locked the premises up for the night. A garbage truck driver found his body on the street a few hours later.

Police feared Mr Acquaro's murder signalled the re-start of the gangland war that had plagued the streets of Melbourne for more than a decade from the late 1990s. Drugs, guns, egos and turf wars had been

the driving factors in the blood that was spilled across Melbourne's suburbs during this time. The underworld war exposed the underbelly of the city and showed the public at large what police had known for many years – that they were fighting a breed of criminal who had no fear of authorities or consequences of their illegal activities. These men wanted money and power, and jail time was just a bump on the road to riches. The violent struggle between the factions ended with a huge body count, with several of the victims themselves suspects in some of the killings.

Melbourne's bloody "Gangland Wars" escalated with the murder of Alphonse Gangitano in the laundry of his home in the city's leafy outer east on 16 January 1998. However, John Silvester and Andrew Rule, the journalists who are the authorities on this time in Melbourne's criminal history, say the real start of the wars was the shooting of a man in 1995 called Gregory John Workman.

Gangitano, who was known for his violence and hatred of police, fancied himself a gangland legend and cultivated

“DRUGS, GUNS, EGOS AND TURF WARS HAD BEEN THE DRIVING FACTORS IN THE BLOOD THAT WAS SPILLED ACROSS MELBOURNE'S SUBURBS”



that image through his gang, called The Carlton Crew. The truth was that Gangitano was struggling financially while giving the impression of wealth and success. At the time of his death, Gangitano was facing charges with Jason Moran over some brutal nightclub bashings.

Upon his murder, Domenic 'Mick' Gatto became the head of the group. Gatto is one of the few high-profile survivors of the wars and remains a prominent figure in Melbourne as a self-styled 'professional mediator' for the building industry as well as a debt collector. Nowadays he describes himself as a 'businessman'.

For the next few years after the death of Gangitano, the gangland murders happened in isolation, and the public was barely aware of the violent upheaval that was brewing in the city of Melbourne.

The residents of the city knew about the families and certain criminal characters in operation, like the Pettingill clan, for example, and Mark 'Chopper' Read (a career criminal who cut off his own ears and wrote several bestselling autobiographical books), but many of the names on the body count were known only to the criminal underbelly of Melbourne.

The murders that made the police and the city stand up and take notice were the assassination of drug dealer Jason

Moran and his friend Pasquale Barbero in 2004. When they were killed, these men were sitting in a van, along with Moran's young twin children and three of their friends, on their way to an Australian Rules football clinic for children, known as Auskick. A masked man caught Moran unawares and blasted his shotgun through the windscreen of the van. There were at least 200 people in the vicinity, which gave police grave concern that these wars could take out innocent bystanders. The fact that the children were unharmed was seen to be a miracle.

If there was a 'face' of the Melbourne underworld wars, it would be Carl Williams – an unlikely crime king, some might say. Nicknamed 'the baby-face killer' (police also used the moniker 'fat boy'), Williams had gone from a small player in the underworld to the head of a multi-million dollar drugs empire in just a decade.

Williams started his criminal career as a foot soldier for the Morans but that relationship soured when the family discovered him using their amphetamine presses to make his own product and undercut their prices.

For this betrayal, he was shot in the stomach by the Morans, and so began the tit-for-tat revenge killings that kept police busy trying to crack the code of silence among underworld figures for years.

ABOVE Associates of lawyer and owner of Gelobar cafe Joe Acquaro wait to speak with police after he was found dead

THE PLAYERS

WHO WERE THE RUTHLESS GANG MEMBERS SHAMELESSLY KILLING EACH OTHER IN THE FIGHT TO CONTROL THE CITY?

SUNSHINE CREW

The group, unofficially led by Paul Kallipolitis, hailed from the suburb of the same name and were friends from childhood. Carl Williams was a member until he branched out on his own. The group had a reputation as, "Volatile, ruthless and hungry for an easy dollar."

WILLIAMS GANG

Carl Williams worked for the Morans but went out on his own in the drug-manufacturing business, going from bit player to crime lord in just over a decade. His father George was also involved in the family business.

MORAN FAMILY

The Moran clan were involved in the manufacture of amphetamines. The elders of the family – Lewis and Des – were old school criminals who didn't want to draw attention to themselves. The same can't be said for the younger members of the family – Jason and Mark – who were violent and ambitious, and were waged in a deadly battle with Carl Williams and his crew.

CARLTON CREW

An independent group created by Alphonse Gangitano. Members included Domenic 'Mick' Gatto, George Defteros, Mario Condello, and Vincenzo and Gerardo Manella. This group also had ties with Sicilians and the American Mafia. The name comes from the suburb where the group was based. Carlton is the heart of Melbourne's Italian community.

RADEV GANG

A gang of European-born criminals led by Nik 'The Russian' Radev. Radev and his associates carried guns and used violence to extort money and drugs.

THE HONOURED SOCIETY

A secretive group with alleged links to the Calabrian mafia, The Honoured Society is a collective of businessmen who have multi-million dollar interests in property, fresh produce markets and pizza restaurants.



ABOVE The scene where the body of gangland lawyer and owner of Gelobar cafe Joe Acquaro was discovered

Williams was responsible for ordering at least three murders – that of Lewis, Mark and Jason Moran – and for conspiring to kill Mark Mallia. He was jailed for 35 years. He grinned behind the bullet-proof glass at his trial, while his wife Roberta turned to posing in bikinis for men's mags and giving exclusive interviews to women's publications. It was a media circus that kept the Melbourne public transfixed by the "underbelly" of their city.

Williams had seemed to triumph, however, even though he was in jail for a long stretch. He'd survived the bloodshed and even started to co-operate with police for several upcoming gangland trials. Word had leaked out that the state government had paid some money towards his daughter's private school education. But this left him exposed to payback.

It seemed to be the end of the gangland wars when Williams was murdered by cell mate Matthew Johnson. They say never turn your back in prison, and Williams was reading the newspaper in the gym room when Johnson came from behind and beat him to death with a handle from an exercise bike. Johnson, who was a career criminal in jail for murder, was known as a violent loose cannon and hated "lags". So when word spread that Williams was allegedly working with police, his fate was sealed.

John Silvester, co-author of *Underbelly: The Gangland Wars* and crime reporter for Australian newspaper *The Age* said police believed, "A major drug dealer on the outside, fearing Williams was about to implicate him in an unsolved murder, urged inmates to take action..."

While every murder in these "wars" was as violent as they come, the double execution of husband and wife Terence and Christine Hodson lay bare allegations of corruption among some of Victoria police's drug squad

“ THEY WERE FIGHTING A BREED OF CRIMINAL WHO HAD NO FEAR OF AUTHORITIES OR CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ”



THE BODY COUNT

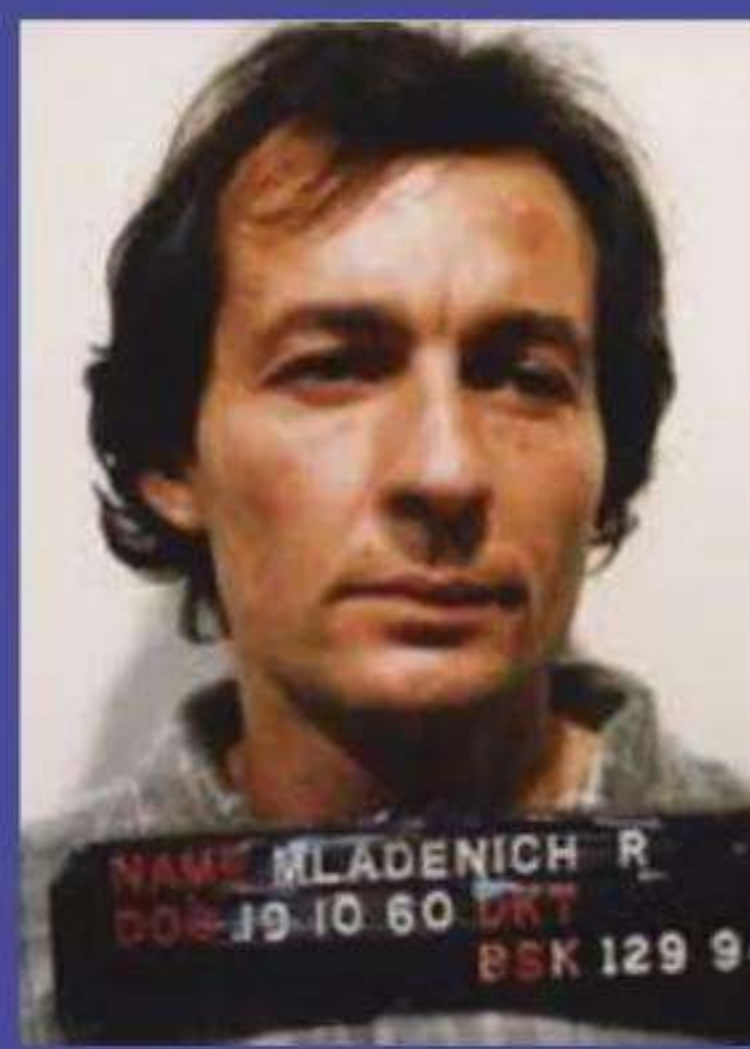
- ✕ No affiliation/unconfirmed
- ☉ Carlton Crew
- HS Honoured Society
- M Moran Family
- RG Radev Gang
- ☉ Sunshine Crew
- W Williams Family

MARK MORAN 35 M

The stepson of Lewis Moran, Mark Moran was shot dead outside his Aberfeldie home on 15 June 2000. Mark and his brother Jason had come into conflict with fellow drug dealer Carl Williams, who used to be a runner for the family. In 1999, Jason had shot Williams in the stomach over a debt. Carl Williams was charged with Mark Moran's murder but the charges were dropped.

RICHARD MLADENICH 44 M

Shot dead in a St Kilda motel room in front of three other people on 16 May 2000, Mladenich, a standover man nicknamed 'Mad Richard', was once a bodyguard to Carl Williams in jail and also rumoured to be working for Jason Moran at the time of his death. Dino Dibra was named as the main suspect in the murder.



1995

GREGORY JOHN WORKMAN 44 ✕

A career criminal and standover man, Workman was shot dead outside a Wando Grove, St Kilda, party on 7 February 1995 by thug and wannabe gangster Alphonse Gangitano. Gangitano was said to be enraged over a debt he was owed by Workman.

ALPHONSE GANGITANO 40 ☉

Gangitano, who was the violent figurehead of the Carlton Crew, was fatally shot late on 16 January 1998 in the laundry of his home in Templestowe, a suburb in Melbourne's leafy east. No one was ever convicted of the murder but a coroner implicated Jason Moran and Graham Kinniburgh in the killing.

FRANCESCO BENVENUTO 52 HS

Powerful fruit and vegetable market wholesaler Francesco Benvenuto was found shot dead at the wheel of his car in Beaumaris on 8 May 2000. Benvenuto was known to be a major player in Melbourne's underworld and was linked to the 1992 killing of another fruiterer named Alfonso Muratore.

GERARDO MANNELLA 31 M

Shot in a North Fitzroy street after trying to escape from two men who lay in wait for him on 20 October 1999. Gerardo was the brother of Vince Mannella.

DINO DIBRA 25 ☉ W

Shot outside his Sunshine West home on 14 October 2000, Dibra was one of Carl Williams's most trusted men and his murder was a professional hit, most likely by Benji Veniamin. He was facing several charges including kidnap and assault at time of his death.

GEORGE GERMANOS 41 ✕

Shot in the chest and head in an Armadale park on 22 March 2001, Mr Germanos was a part-time security guard at various venues with links to some of Melbourne's underworld identities. Police believe the same gunman also killed Dimitrios Belias.

VICTOR PEIRCE 42 ✕

Peirce was acquitted of the Walsh St killings, where police officers Steven Tynan and Damian Eyre were executed in South Yarra, in 1988. Peirce was shot dead by Benji Veniamin in his car in Bay Street, Port Melbourne on 1 May 2002 in what was believed to be a drug-related execution.

PAUL KALLIPOLITIS UNKNOWN ☉

Unofficial leader of the Sunshine Crew, Paul 'PK' Kallipolitis was found shot dead in his Sunshine West home on 15 October 2002. PK was a standover man, drug dealer and extremely paranoid due to his abuse of steroids.

NIKOLAI RADEV 48 RG

Radev, known as 'Bulgarian Nik' and 'Nik the Russian' to police and his fellow crims, was gunned down in Queen Street, Coburg on 15 April 2003. A violent standover man, Radev was once charged with associate Housam Zayat for a home invasion where they bashed a 71-year-old man and tied his five-year-old granddaughter to a bed and threatened her with a gun.

LEWIS MORAN UNKNOWN M

The patriarch of the notorious Moran Family and member of the Carlton Crew was shot dead in his drinking haunt The Brunswick Club on 31 March 2004. In 2007, Carl Williams was convicted of ordering the murder and sentenced to 25 years in jail.

ANDREW 'BENJI' VENIAMIN 29 W

The right-hand man of Carl Williams, Veniamin was the trigger man in at least four underworld shootings. He was shot dead during an argument with Carlton Crew's Mick Gatto in a restaurant on 23 March 2004. Gatto was acquitted of the killing in 2005 on grounds of self-defence for.



GRAHAM KINNIBURGH 62 ☉

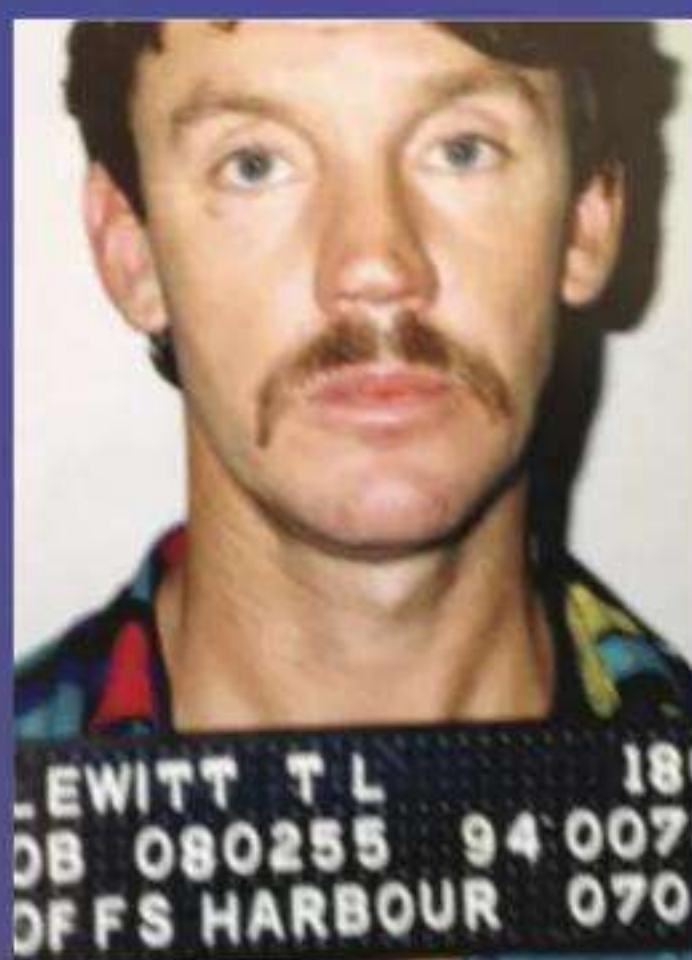
An old school safe breaker, Graham 'the Munster' Kinniburgh kept a low profile but was friends with some of the flashier, high-profile identities of Melbourne's gangland scene. The Munster was shot dead outside his home in Kew, an affluent suburb of Melbourne's east on 13 December 2003. In 2015, Stephen John Asling was charged with Kinniburgh's murder.

MICHAEL MARSHALL 38 ✕

A former kickboxer, hot dog vendor and drug dealer, Michael Marshall was ambushed and shot dead as he stepped out of his car at his South Yarra home on 25 October 2003. His five-year-old son witnessed the killing. The hit was organised by Carl Williams.

TERRENCE BLEWITT 53 ✕

The remains of armed robber Terrence Blewitt, named as the man who assassinated Kinniburgh, were found in January 2016 in the back yard of a suburban house. Blewitt had not been seen since April 2004.



LEWIS CAINE 39 W

Caine, who had previously done jail time for murder, was shot dead and his body then dumped in a Brunswick back street on 8 May 2004.

TERENCE HODSON 56 ✕

Career petty criminal turned police informant Terence Hodson was shot in the head, along with his wife Christine, in their suburban Kew home on 16 May 2004. It was alleged that Hodson had in the past sold drugs on behalf of corrupt police officers.

CHRISTINE HODSON 55 ✕

Christine Hodson was shot in the head, along with her husband Terence, in her suburban Kew home on 16 May 2004. Hitman Rodney Collins was charged with murdering Mr and Mrs Hodson but the case against him collapsed after the fatal bashing of Carl Williams, who told police he, along with Collins and policeman Paul Dale, organised the murders.

MARION CONDELLO 53 ☉

Former lawyer and Mafia money launderer Condello was shot dead in the driveway of his East Brighton home on 6 February 2006.

JOHN FURLAN
48 ☒

Executed in a car bomb explosion in Coburg North on 3 August 1998 as he drove to work, Furlan, who owned a salvage business, had been in a pay dispute with the Carlton Crew's Mick Gatto prior to his death. However, the case remains unsolved.

CHARLES 'MAD CHARLIE' HEGYALJI
42 ☒

Hegyalji was gunned down at his Caulfield home on 23 November 1998. Known as 'Mad Charlie' the standover man was also a police informer.

VINCE MANNELLA
42 ☒

Shot outside his Fitzroy North home on 9 January 1999, police speculated that the motive for the killing was either over a debt or a gangland power struggle.

MILORAD DAPCEVIC
47 ☒

The business partner of Dimitrios Belias went missing on 14 September 1999, the day he gave a statement to police about his friend's death. Police suspect that Dapcevic, a former armed robber and suspected heroin trafficker, was murdered by Carl Williams, Benji Veniamin and Dino Dibra.

DIMITRIOS BELIAS
38 ☒

Shot in the head in an ambush at a St Kilda Road office car park on 9 September 1999, Belias owed very large amounts of money to some Melbourne underworld figures and had tried to use fake diamonds to clear his debts.

JOSEPH QUADARA
57 ☒

Ambushed and shot 15 times in the back carpark of a Toorak supermarket on 28 May 1999, fruiterer Quadara had once been a millionaire but was declared bankrupt in 1994. There is speculation that it could have been a mistaken-identity hit. He was shot by two people and the case is still unsolved.

JASON MORAN
36 ☒

Drug dealer Jason Moran, along with his best mate Pasquale Barbaro, was ambushed in his van in the car park of an Essendon hotel on 21 June 2003. There were five children in the back seats who witnessed the execution. It was these killings that led to the Victoria Police's Purana Taskforce.

**PASQUALE BARBARO**
40 ☒

Barbaro was ambushed, along with his best mate Jason Moran, in a van in an Essendon carpark. The killers shot the men in front of five children who were in the back of the van.

HOUSAM ZAYAT
32 ☒

A criminal known for his violence, Zayat was forced from his car and shot dead in a Werribee paddock on 11 September 2003. He was an associate of Nik Radev.

MARK MALLIA
30 ☒

The burned remains of drug trafficker Mallia were found in a drain in West Sunshine on 18 August 2003. Mallia was tortured and killed on the orders of Carl Williams.

WILLY THOMPSON
39 ☒

Shot in his car on 21 July 2003 after leaving a martial arts club in Waverley Road, Chadstone, Thompson, a former nightclub bouncer, was believed to be working for Tony Mokbel at the time of his death.

**DES 'TUPPENCE' MORAN**
60 ☒

Brother of Lewis, Des Moran was shot dead outside a deli in his home in the suburb of Ascot Vale on 15 June 2009. The ex-partner of his slain brother, Judy Moran, organised the hit. She was jailed in 2011 for 21 years.

CARL WILLIAMS
39 ☒

Drug kingpin and multiple killer Carl Williams was beaten to death with a part from an exercise bike in Barwon Prison by Matthew Johnston, known as 'the General'. At the time of his death, Williams was co-operating with police about the murders of Terence and Christine Hodson.

2010



ABOVE The dramatic arrest of Carl Williams in Port Melbourne on 17 November 2003

and collusion with underworld figures including Williams. According to Silvester in a 2014 article, the handling of Terence Hodson as an informer and what happened next was a "shambles".

"And then the man police desperately hoped could crack the Hodson case, Carl Williams, was given too much power," he said.

Former detective Paul Dale and hit man Rodney Collins were charged with murdering Hodson but the case against both collapsed after the fatal bashing of Carl Williams, who told police he, along with Collins and Dale, organised Hodson's murder. In 2015, Coroner Ian Gray ruled there was insufficient evidence the couple were killed to protect Dale.

It seemed no one was immune from the wars, not even the low-profile but extremely influential Graham 'the Munster' Kinniburgh. Known as an enforcer and a "good crook", the Munster was shot dead outside his home in Kew while carrying a bag of groceries. Kinniburgh distanced himself from random and severe violence of younger gangland figures like the Morans and Benji Veniamin. He advocated staying out of the public eye and in his younger years was rumoured to have been part of a group of safe crackers who did bank robberies all around Australia, netting millions of dollars. He was a wealthy man and a quiet man, but kept friendships with the brasher set like Gangitano and Jason Moran.

Kinniburgh was at Gangitano's home the night the 'Prince of Lygon Street' was murdered. So was Jason Moran,

“THE MURDERS HAPPENED IN ISOLATION, AND THE PUBLIC WAS BARELY AWARE OF THE VIOLENT UPHEAVAL THAT WAS BREWING”



ABOVE The wife of Carl Williams, Roberta, walks past a poster of her husband on a newspaper stand as she is questioned by the media after leaving the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Thursday 10 June 2004

TOP Police examine the scene where 60-year-old Desmond 'Tuppence' Moran was shot dead in Ascot Vale on 15 June 2009 in Melbourne

who was upset that Gangitano was likely to plead guilty to his part in assaults on nightclub patrons. Moran had also been charged with affray and he didn't want a long prison sentence. It is believed Moran went to the house that night with Kinniburgh as a mediator to try to convince Gangitano to change his mind. Instead, hothead Moran pulled a gun and shot Gangitano several times in the back of the head. There was DNA evidence linking Kinniburgh to the scene but he told police he'd gone to the house with Moran and was then asked to leave. Kinniburgh said that when he came back, Gangitano was dead.

In 2015, Stephen John Asling was charged with Kinniburgh's murder. Terrence Blewitt, who disappeared in 2004, was named in court as the one who fired the fatal shot at Kinniburgh. Blewitt's remains were found in early 2016. Asling was jailed for life in 2017.

“ WILLIAMS HAD GONE FROM A SMALL PLAYER IN THE UNDERWORLD TO THE HEAD OF A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR DRUGS EMPIRE ”



Another high-profile character who survived is 'Fat Tony' Mokbel, who built a multi-million dollar drug syndicate and was one of the country's biggest dealers. Mokbel sided with Carl Williams after starting a feud with the Morans and the Carlton Crew. He fled Australia via a luxury yacht to Greece during his 2006 Victoria Supreme Court trial for cocaine trafficking. Captured in 2007 in Greece to huge public attention (his mug shot shows him in an ill-fitting toupee as his disguise), he is serving 30 years in jail.

The women associated with the gangsters also captivated the attention of Melburnians. Family matriarch Judy Moran has lived her life loving criminal men: her first husband and father of Mark was Les Cole, who was killed during gangland wars in Sydney during the 1980s. Judy then had son Jason with Lewis Moran, but at the time of his death, they were separated. Judy is now serving a 21-year sentence for arranging the murder of Lewis's brother Des in 2009 in what was believed to be over money and hostility – Des Moran has never hidden his dislike for Judy, who is now 72. Judy was the getaway driver for the gunman Geoffrey 'Nutts' Armour, and hid the murder weapon in a safe.

“ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST”

KING OF CRIME CARL WILLIAMS GETS A BIG BLING GOODBYE

Farewelled to the strains of Tina Turner's *Simply The Best* and buried in a gold-plated coffin, crime king Carl Williams's funeral was as large as he was in life. The funeral of the convicted killer, who himself suffered a most violent end, was held at St Therese's Catholic Church in Essendon – the

same place where his mother and friend-turned-enemy Jason Moran's service was held. Roberta Williams and Dhakota, her daughter with Carl, arrived in a black stretch Hummer and the casket, the same model used to bury Michael Jackson, was imported from the US and cost \$30,000. There were more onlookers and members of the media outside the church than people inside to mourn Williams. High-profile Melbourne criminal Mark 'Chopper' Read remarked on hearing about Williams's death: "Hah, hah, hah, another one bites the dust. I knew that Carl would end up getting it sooner or later."



The former wife of Carl Williams, Roberta, also cut a colourful figure. The pair had a daughter together called Dhakota, but their marriage suffered from a tempestuous relationship. Roberta was also very close with Andrew Veniamin, her husband's right-hand man, and her eldest daughter from another marriage, Danielle Stephens, was charged with the attempted murder of a man but the charges were discontinued in late 2015. Once notorious for posing in her bikinis for a men's magazine, Roberta is now a "gangland granny" after daughter Danielle gave birth to a son. In 2009, she published her autobiography, *My Life*, which detailed her life with Carl as well as her abusive upbringing and first marriage.

At the height of the slayings, Roberta wrote in her book: "You never had time to be afraid. It was one thing after another. You never got a second to think. You were just on your guard 24/7 and waiting for the next thing to happen and you always had your phone in your hand."

In 2015, there was a firebomb attack on a house just doors away from Roberta's. Police believe they thwarted another attack on her life after they followed a suspect car that had been linked to the earlier drive-by shooting of the

home of George Williams. When police followed the car, it was believed to be heading in the direction of Roberta's street. A young police officer was shot in the head as he and his partner tried to stop the vehicle. The other police officer miraculously survived.

Could the gangland wars flare up again? Certainly the professional hit on Joe Acquaro has police worried.

The Purana Task Force – the dedicated team to investigate the gangland killings – is assisting in the investigation into Mr Acquaro's murder.

This period in Melbourne's history proved the saying that truth is stranger than fiction, as a television series called *Underbelly* was made from the book of the same name by Andrew Rule and Jon Silvester. The series could not be aired in Victoria because the courts were afraid it could prejudice ongoing trials. Ironically, this fuelled a trade in smuggled DVDs and pirated episodes, such was the public appetite to know more about the gangland wars.

It was finally aired in its full unedited form in 2011 in Victoria. By that stage, Carl Williams was dead, with several of the criminal trials of other gangland figures collapsing without the assistance of the crime lord.

ABOVE Pallbearers load the gold-plated coffin containing the body of Australian gangland killer, Carl Williams, into a hearse



GODFATHER OF THE CHICAGO OUTLAWS

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE CLUBS DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE MAFIA HIERARCHY, BUT ONE CHICAGO BIKER WAS SO RESPECTED HE BECAME THE OUTLAWS' UNOFFICIAL 'DON'

WORDS SETH FERRANTI



Peter 'Big Pete' James always wanted to be an Outlaw. When he first got involved with the motorcycle club in the mid-90s they were involved in a vicious war with the Hells Angels, who were encroaching on Outlaw territory in Chicago, trying to gain a foothold in the city. A series of bombings, fights and shootings ensued, and a lot of the Outlaws that Big Pete came in under were sent to prison for their actions in the war. With their leadership in Chicago decimated, Big Pete stepped up to the plate.

He had witnessed the devastation the war wrought on his club first-hand. And despite the bloodshed the Hells Angels were still there. Big Pete realised they weren't going anywhere. He understood what his predecessors were trying to do, but he decided he would combat the problem with a different strategy. Big Pete was practical after all, and as the Chicago Outlaws' new boss he wanted to leave his mark – on Chicago and the club.

Founded in the city in 1935, the club couldn't eject the Hells Angels because they had no unity: it was every chapter for itself. But Big Pete sought to change that. He was on a mission to unite all the splintered Outlaw factions under one banner. At the same time, he wanted to consolidate his power base and hold the city of Chicago, insulating himself as he solidified the Outlaw rackets, because to Big Pete it wasn't about the individual riches that he could accrue or the infamy he could achieve from his position – it was about unifying the club and being the boss of Chicago.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIKER

"I knew where I was going from the time I was in the eighth grade," Big Pete told **Real Crime**. "When I was in college I was coming down the highway and two bikes came up behind me really fast, and then they moved out, went around me, and it was a really cool thing to see. I read their vests and it said, 'Outlaws'. I kind of kept that in the back of my mind, and as time went on I organised my own club, but I always wanted to be an Outlaw. I was an Outlaw personally inside, and I wanted to be right at the top of the food chain."

Big Pete was a gangster from the start. He used to sell contraband soda on the school bus, and he knew that graduating from high school, going to college and joining a fraternity would come back to help him later in life. Not a typical route for a biker, but Big Pete was a new age biker with old school values. He was groomed by some serious 'one per centers', but for him everything was calculated. He knew he had leadership skills, but the thing that really made him decide his fate was when he got out of college and went to a job interview.

"I had to do a couple of aptitude tests, and I sat down with the guy about a week later," Big Pete said. "He told me that he really liked me but that he couldn't hire me. I was like, 'Why not?' He said, 'Because you scored off the charts for being a risk taker, and you're not going to listen to anybody.' And that's kind of been the whole way my life has gone. I decided then that I was strictly going to be an entrepreneur, and I'll do whatever it takes to get whatever I want. And that's what I did."

In college Big Pete spent time as a driver for a lawyer. His roommate's dad was a big-time bankruptcy lawyer, and all day long Big Pete would drive him around to see clients. Big Pete had access to this brilliant mind, and he wasn't going to sit up front and simply listen to the music. Big Pete

Big Pete and the Chicago chapter would visit their comrades throughout the state to promote unity and make sure everyone was heading in the same direction



started asking questions and learning. He liked to get into other people's heads to see how things worked. Knowledge about how people succeed was paramount to Big Pete.

"If you don't teach me something then there's no reason for me to talk to you," Big Pete said. "I know that sounds cold, but I can look out the window and see what the weather's like. I don't like to make small talk. If you're here to teach me something, great. Not to say I won't talk sports and stuff like that, but I'm not one for idle conversation. If I have to ask myself, 'Why am I talking to this guy?' I'm wasting my time."

Big Pete equates it to a salesman going into the office and giving a great sales speech to the secretary. The secretary can't make decisions, so why would the salesman waste their time? He learned from a great salesman that he shouldn't talk to people that can't make decisions – it achieves nothing. Big Pete stressed that you have to talk to the person that can make a decision if you want to succeed in life, and don't waste your breath until you're in front of that person. This was the philosophy that Big Pete lived by.

BORN TO BE THE BOSS

"Everybody makes the joke that he's playing checkers while I play chess, but in chess you have to lose pieces to win the game," Big Pete said. "You have to sacrifice pieces, but if you play the Chinese game called Go, you just take territory. How easy is it to take territory if I have a club that belongs to my confederation? I didn't have to give up anything. The only thing I had to do was to make sure the clubs didn't start beefing between themselves. It took a little while, like



“ IF HE COULD UNITE ALL THE VARIOUS OUTLAW CLIQUES INTO ONE GROUP, THEY WOULD BE UNSTOPPABLE IN CHICAGO ”

TOP He was the type of leader who got around and made inroads with other clubs. It didn't matter what part of the country they were in: if there were alliances to be made, Big Pete made them

ABOVE Big Pete with Mr Happy on his way to Daytona Bike Week. All the Outlaw motorcycle clubs would converge on Daytona for a week of fun and partying in the sun

a couple of years, but eventually it got to the point where if there was an argument or disagreement, I would sit down and monitor the meeting and we'd come to a conclusion that led to everyone being happy.”

Big Pete saw the big picture and recognised early on that if he could unite all the various Outlaw cliques into one group they would be unstoppable in Chicago – a force that couldn't be displaced. He realised that if he was going to be the boss he'd have to be able to play politics in the criminal underworld. To Big Pete it was like being a rock star – you had to cross genres. “If you're a country musician you can be really successful,” he said. “But to be the megastar you have to get to the people that like rock-n-roll, you have to get the people from other genres to buy your songs.”

Big Pete subscribed to the theory that when you're a boss you can't isolate yourself. “You have to be able to move within the different criminal groups, and you have to have the respect of the different criminal groups or they'll say, ‘Who's this, how did he get here?’ And it doesn't take long. You might get a seat at the table because of where you come from, like you're here because you're an Outlaw, but when you open your mouth you'll find out if you get to come to that table again. There's a fine point and a finesse point that a lot of people don't understand – that's how it goes.”

GODFATHER OF THE OUTLAWS



WHO'S THE TOP DOG?

In the world of outlaw motorcycle clubs the Outlaws rank high with the other notable clubs like the Hells Angels, Mongols and Bandidos. But they all grew by absorbing smaller clubs to increase their numbers.

SUPPORT CLUBS (OUTLAW SUPPORTERS)

After the success of shows like *The Sons of Anarchy*, Big Pete said there was a big jump in guys showing up at the Outlaws' club house. They wanted to be sanctioned to fly their colours in Chicago. Groups of bikers would come in and pay their respects to the Chicago boss, looking to form alliances so they could ride Chicago's streets bearing their patch.

Examples:

Twisted Image MC led by Coyote
Loyal Order MC led by Papa Joe

SATELLITE CLUBS (OUTLAW AFFILIATES)

Big Pete had clubs that were affiliated with the Outlaw Nation in Chicago. He was the guy who politicked with all the different MCs, getting everyone to cooperate for the betterment of the whole. The affiliates could be hard to work with, but Big Pete focused on keeping all the clubs under the Outlaw banner.

Examples:

Crossroads MC
New Attitude MC

REGIONAL CLUBS (OUTLAW ALLIES)

These clubs were very loyal to the Outlaws and had been allies with them for some time. Some even prospected as whole clubs for the Outlaws. Big Pete had very good relationships with these MCs, who backed the Outlaws in almost anything.

Examples:

The Fugarwe Tribe MC led by Gator
The Brothers Rising MC led by Gypsy

LARGER ONE PER CENT CLUBS (OUTLAWS MC)

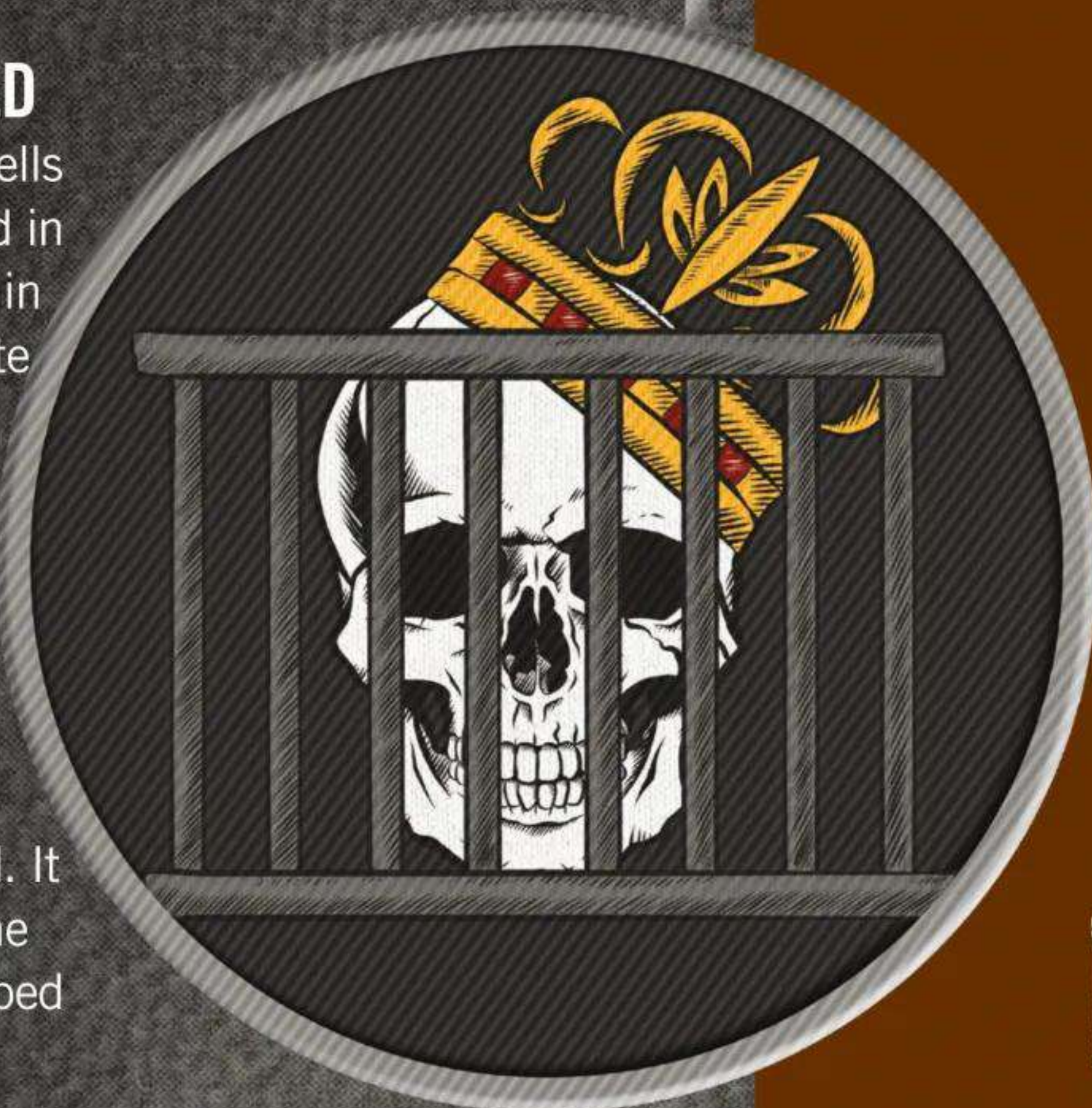
The Outlaws were founded in Chicago, and as one of the national big four 'one per center' bike groups, they were at the top of the hierarchy. Big Pete did business with mafioso, politicians and business owners, helping to transform the Outlaws into an international brand.

BADGES OF HONOUR

BIG PETE JOINED THE OUTLAWS IN THE EARLY 1990S, AND WAS SOON THRUST INTO A POSITION AS BOSS OF CHICAGO

BOSSES BEING JAILED

When the Outlaws and Hells Angels became embroiled in a vicious territorial battle in Chicago in 1995, Big Pete was on the scene. As the retaliatory bombings, assaults and shootings went tit-for-tat, Big Pete watched as all his mentors in the club and the Chicago Outlaw leaders were incarcerated. It left a power vacuum in the MC, which Big Pete stepped up to fill.



THE ANGEL HUNTS

While negotiating for a truce with the Hells Angels – the first act of his tenure as Outlaw boss – Big Pete initiated 'Angel Hunts', where armed Outlaws ready for a fight would cruise around the city looking for Angels to jump. This helped turn the tide and forced the Angels into an agreement that Big Pete dictated.



THAT MAFIA ATTITUDE

Big Pete grew up knowing that he would be the boss of something. He studied organised crime types like Tony Accardo, amazed at how they engaged in the rackets but never got their hands dirty or got arrested and put in prison. Big Pete modelled himself after mafioso like Accardo, knowing that that mafia attitude would help him when he became Outlaw boss.



Big Pete serving the club in a leadership capacity for two decades, retiring in 2015

“I WAS CLOSE. IF I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN CANCER I WOULD HAVE PULLED IT OFF”

Being a boss was something that Big Pete had in mind since he was a kid. He didn't know what he would be the boss of – that came later – but he knew that he would be a boss in Chicago. That was his dream and he fulfilled it – to a degree of course. He'll admit that he was close to his eventual goal but was thwarted by cancer before he could see all his work come to fruition.

“I was close,” Big Pete admitted. “If I wouldn't have gotten cancer I would have pulled it off. We only got so far because some clubs were better at doing things than other clubs. But if we had another three years we could have refined the talent. Clubs were starting up, and each one brought different values. Being a leader you can't set people up to fail. If you're good at something, that's what the leader needs to find out.”

Big Pete took his position seriously and studied the classics, which helped him refine his leadership skills. “Most people that are leaders read Machiavelli – and the prince is a pretty cool guy – but for myself I preferred Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*. The title is kind of a misnomer, because what he says and what he teaches are philosophies that you can use in everyday life. They work. And as a leader, if you don't understand these qualities or you don't have them in you, you will fail. I mean look around. I can name you more failures than successes.

“Guys out there thought they could do this, thought they could do that. But there's an old saying: 'If you don't know history then you're bound to repeat it'. Well that's an old one

and everybody kind of chuckles, but most times it's true... I used to look at things like, 'If I'm the smartest guy in the room then I'm in the wrong room.' I don't want to be the smartest guy in the room. I want to walk in the room and learn from somebody. And I always did that."

ALLIED TO THE MAFIA

"There was always work supplying dancers to the strip joints," Big Pete said of the MC's relationship with Chicago's Mafia. "But you got to look at it like this: the Outlaws started in Chicago in 1935, and there was a natural progression towards each other as time went on. Now those guys back in the 30s and 40s, they weren't looking at things the same way. But then when the 60s came along more entrepreneurial guys started looking into becoming part of motorcycle clubs, and that kind of started it rolling. There were guys who had chop shops, guys who ran gambling."

Given that Chicago is Al Capone territory, outsiders would think Big Pete idolised the Syndicate's legendary gangster, but Big Pete holds a different Chicago mobster in high esteem. "One of my heroes is Tony Accardo," Big Pete said. "Accardo did it all. He took over the unions, he took over Vegas, and he never spent a day in jail. There are things that you can learn from guys like Tony Accardo. Technically he made Al Capone look like a drugstore wise guy. Money and everything is nice, but the goal is the accomplishment. You don't need to be

out there all flashy, travelling around the world. I drove late model cars. I didn't always have the flashiest bike with new paint jobs. When there were nationals or big parties I didn't go around those parties. I didn't want to become famous among other Outlaws because I had everything I wanted. I had the city of Chicago. That was my goal. Once you reach your goal you stop."

Working with the Mafia was nothing new for the Outlaws, but Big Pete made sure that he had the right connections that would benefit his club. "It's funny because it goes in ebbs and flows," he said. "It all depends on who's calling the shots, where they came from, what they believe in and how you reach out to each other. Usually it's between mutual friends, but if you don't have those mutual friends, no one is going to talk to you. No one is going to say, 'Hey guy, what do you think about this?'"

"It's a difficult thing to explain to someone who doesn't live in Chicago, but there's no other city that has the reputation of Chicago. I mean think about it: who's the most famous gangster out there? Al Capone. He's from Chicago. And his spirit is still in the blood of the people here. That's just how it works. In Chicago a favour is worth more than money. If you have a favour from a mob guy or an outfit guy or even a politician, you can do more with those than if a guy walks in with money."

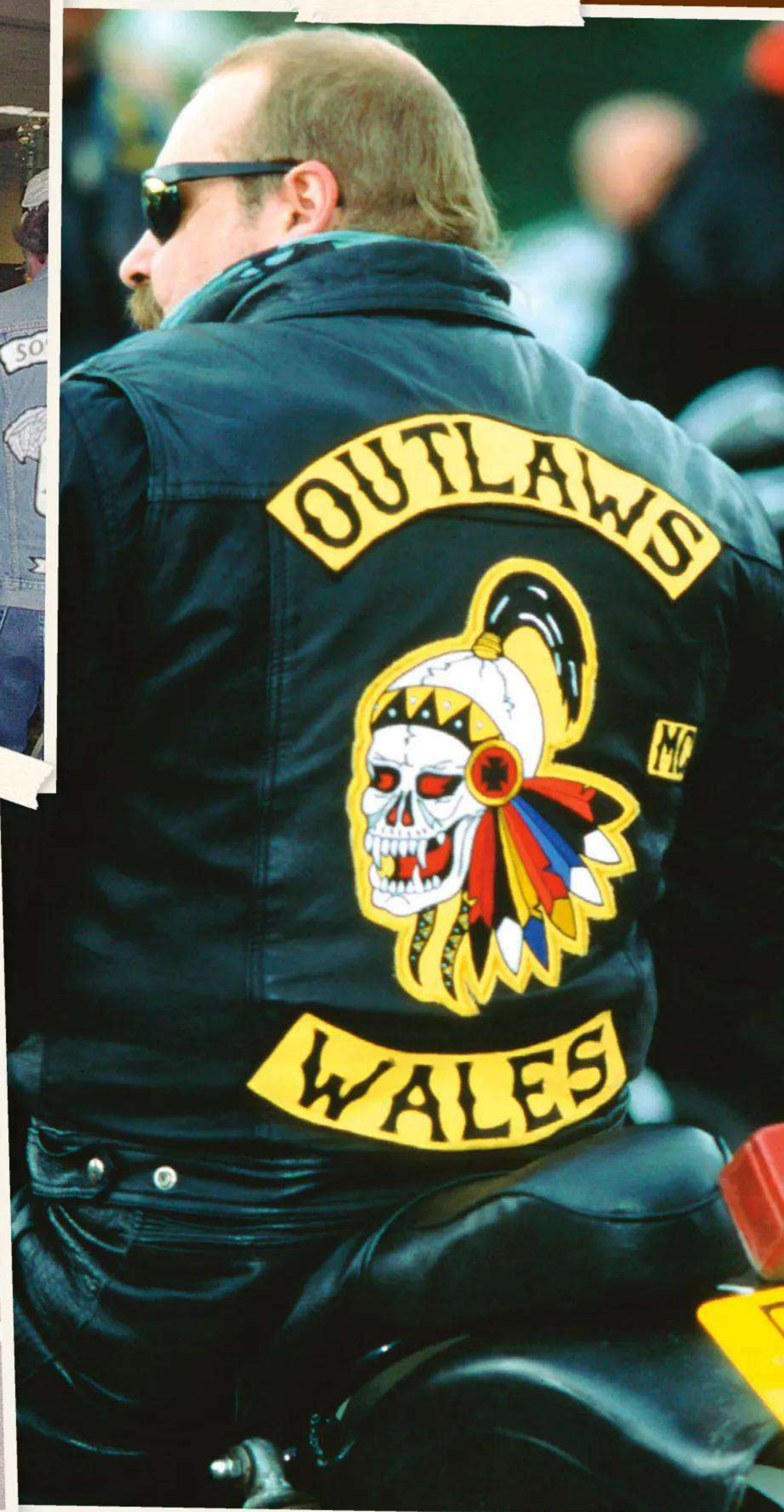
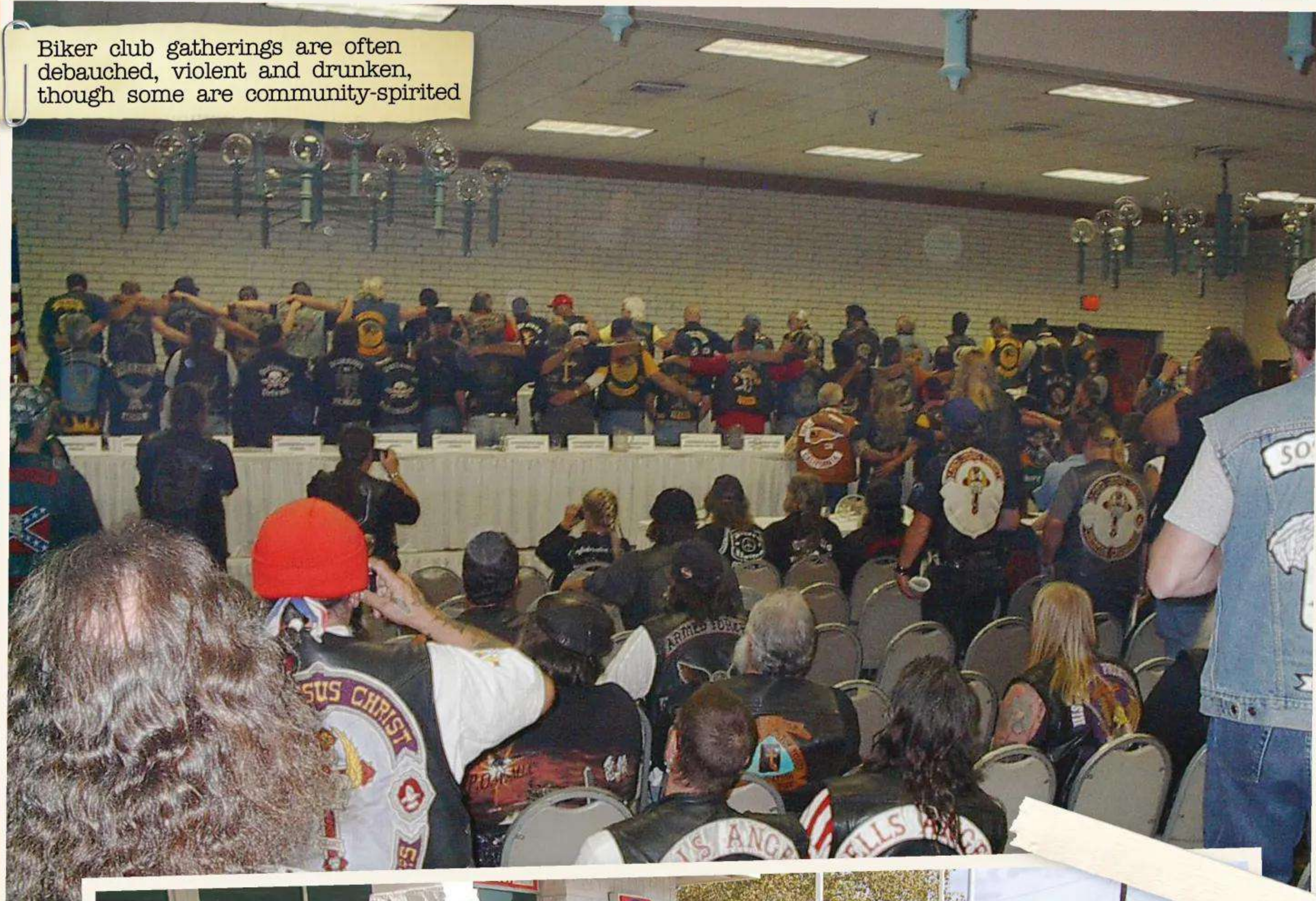
"Now don't get me wrong, nobody's going to turn down money, but those favours, if you got them lined up in your

BELOW Big Pete knew the cops were coming, so it was never a surprise. That's part of being in a motorcycle club, knowing that the cops are monitoring you and will kick in your door

BOTTOM Every biker's motorcycle is an extension of their personality. Big Pete was not flashy. His bike suits his personality: straightforward and direct and no wasted motion, but efficient in the same way



Biker club gatherings are often debauched, violent and drunken, though some are community-spirited

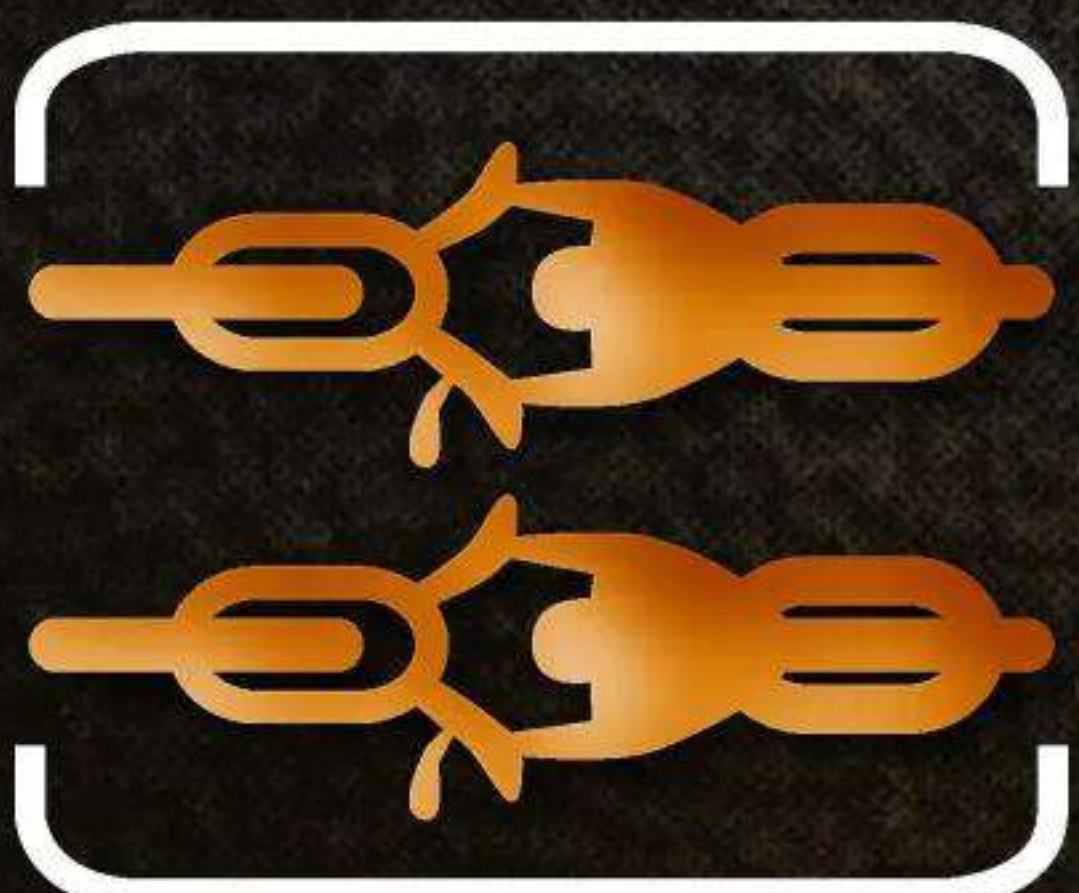


Big Pete's right-hand man on his steed: towards the end, there were fewer Outlaw men he could trust

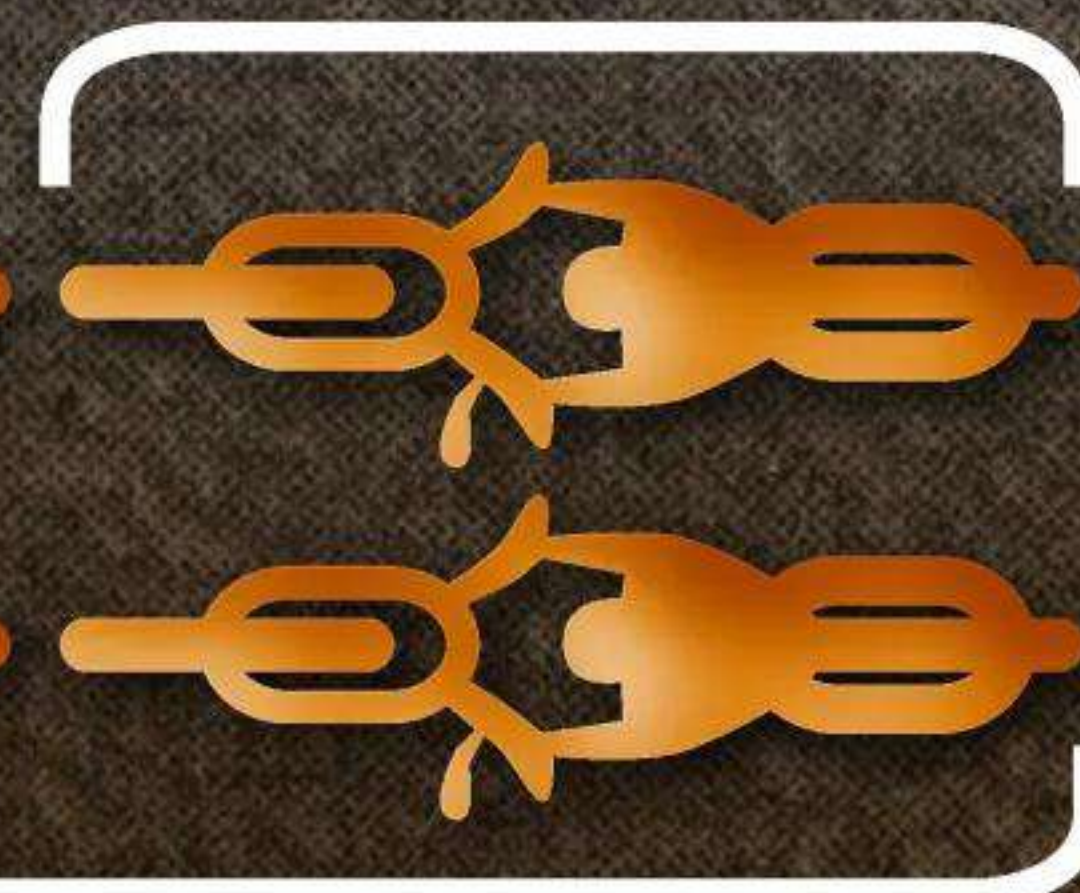
THE LINE UP

THE OUTLAWS STORM DOWN THE HIGHWAY LIKE VIKING MARAUDERS ON STEEL STEEDS OR FIGHTER JETS ON A MISSION — ALWAYS IN TIGHT FORMATION

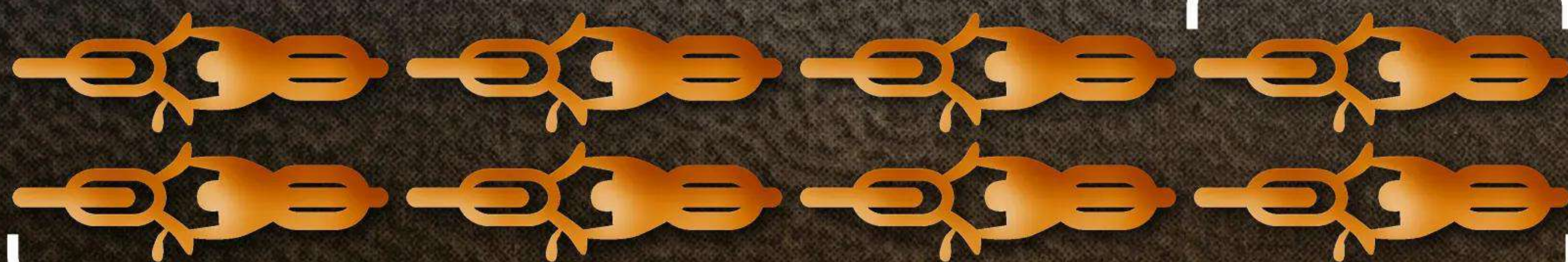
ROAD CAPTAIN



SERGEANT AT ARMS



PRESIDENT



FULL COLOUR-WEARING MEMBERS

pocket, or you've done things to get them that you can call on, you're in a good position, because there's still honour out there... when people give you favours they'll honour them. But it also works both ways. You can't just be out there running your mouth."

PEOPLE IN THE CLUB CHANGED

In the 90s, when Big Pete first joined the Outlaws, the bikers wearing the patch were stone-cold gangsters. They lived by the gangster code. Not too many of them had nine to five jobs, and they walked around with money in their pocket. Now, according to Big Pete, bikers have regular jobs and don't have any money. It's not so much the Outlaws, because the core values are still there, he stresses. It's the people and how times have changed.

"The rules and the beliefs are the same for the club," Big Pete told **Real Crime**. "But because of the newer people that came in things have changed. If you focus on 1995 to 2015, that's a 20-year span, and the difference between those guys that took on the Angels in 1995 versus the guys that were around when I finally left and had my falling out with is night and day."

When Big Pete was diagnosed with cancer he fell short of his goals of growing and strengthening the club. He also fell out of sorts with his immediate subordinates, who decided that they knew best and didn't have to listen to Big Pete anymore. There was an incident where a member of the club was disciplined, and the men under Big Pete wanted to do it in public, at a function, in full view of the biker's family and children. Big Pete wholeheartedly disagreed. He told them it was the wrong move. But they defied him and did what they wanted regardless.

"I believe in the saying, 'Honour among thieves,'" Big Pete said. "It doesn't matter what anyone else says or does. I know there are laws and rules, but I look at those as nothing more than suggestions. If I don't like them or don't believe in them then I don't follow them."

"But there has to be honour among the thieves, and I don't even mean that we're all thieves. It's an old saying from a long time ago... You do not do things in front of a family. You do not do shit in front of kids. That is a fucking no-no. Whatever you want to do to the individual, which I thought was a bad idea in this case, you can't break [this code]. You

“ I KNOW THERE ARE LAWS AND RULES, BUT I LOOK ON THOSE AS NOTHING MORE THAN SUGGESTIONS ”

don't have the same type of dude that says, 'These are what our beliefs are. This is what we are going to do.' Those guys are gone.

"And I think the other thing that helped change [the Outlaws] is just society itself. Coming through the 90s, when all the sentencing changed with longer prison terms and no parole, it changed guys mentality. I remember a defence attorney telling me, because there were some times when there were close calls, that times have changed. It used to be that guys got three, five or seven years and everybody was stand up. But with 15s and 20s, 25s and 30s, that really tested [Outlaw members], and they just didn't want to take those risks anymore."

With the stress the cancer was putting on Big Pete's body, he found he didn't have the strength to fight his brothers, so he walked away: 20 years invested in the club and then he just said "Fuck it" and left them to their own devices. But Big Pete has fond memories of his time with the club.

"I will say this, I had certain guys that I did certain [criminal] things with. But we also had a scholarship fund, we had picnics, every summer there was a big one for all the clubs, we had an all-club ride. This was like some unheard of shit. People would look at me like, 'What?' At times I would catch heat. I didn't have a boss in Chicago, but I had bosses in the club and they were like, 'What are you up to?' I would explain it to them. Sometimes they would shake their head, but they were like, 'You live there. You must know what you're doing. Go ahead. Good luck.' And that's how that played out."

The dream of a united Outlaw Nation didn't pan out for Big Pete, but he's well respected for accomplishing what he did. Taking the Outlaws in a different direction, solidifying the club's power base in Chicago and holding the city with a steady hand during his 20-year reign. Big Pete said that writing his book was a bittersweet process. It's frowned on by the club, but Big Pete felt he was pushed into writing his story. He felt that the ideals that he and the club stood for in Chicago were being tarnished. He felt he was justified in telling his story – the true story of an Outlaw boss.

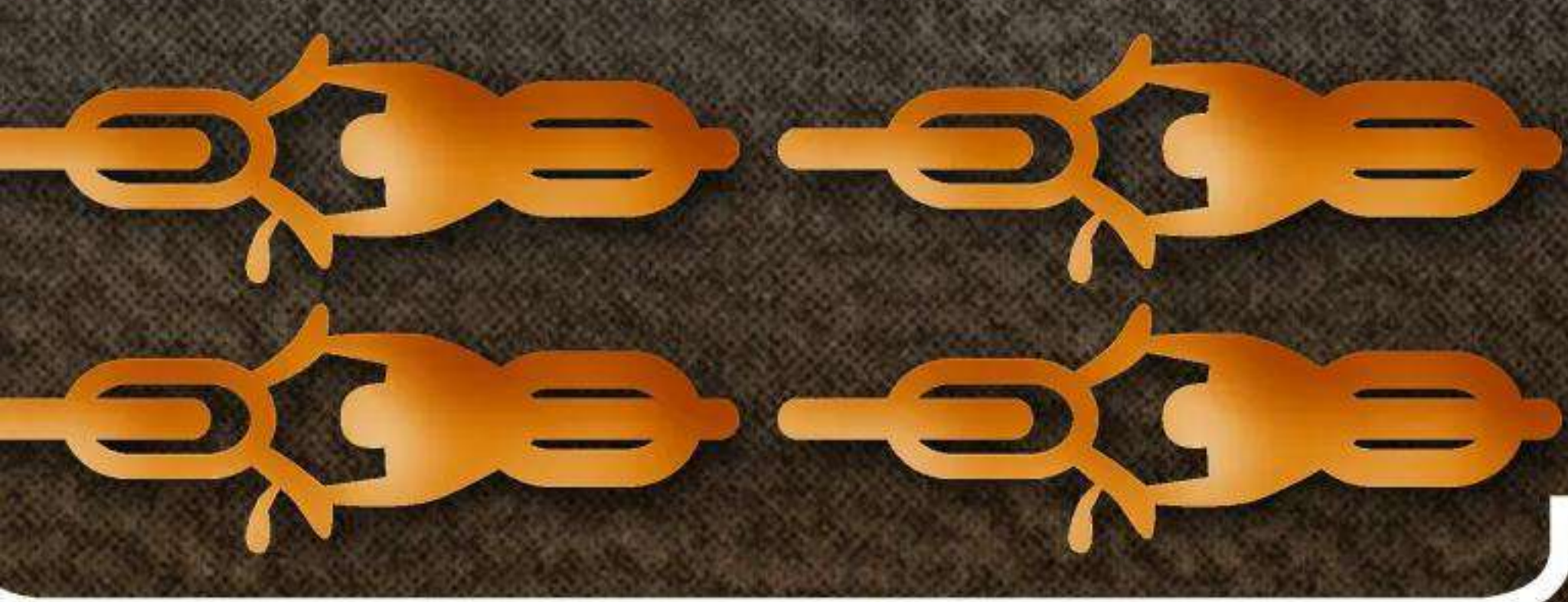
LEFT The Outlaws are one of the big four American motorcycle gangs that have chapters all over the world, including the UK. It is an international entity that is recognised everywhere

© Alamy; Thinkstock

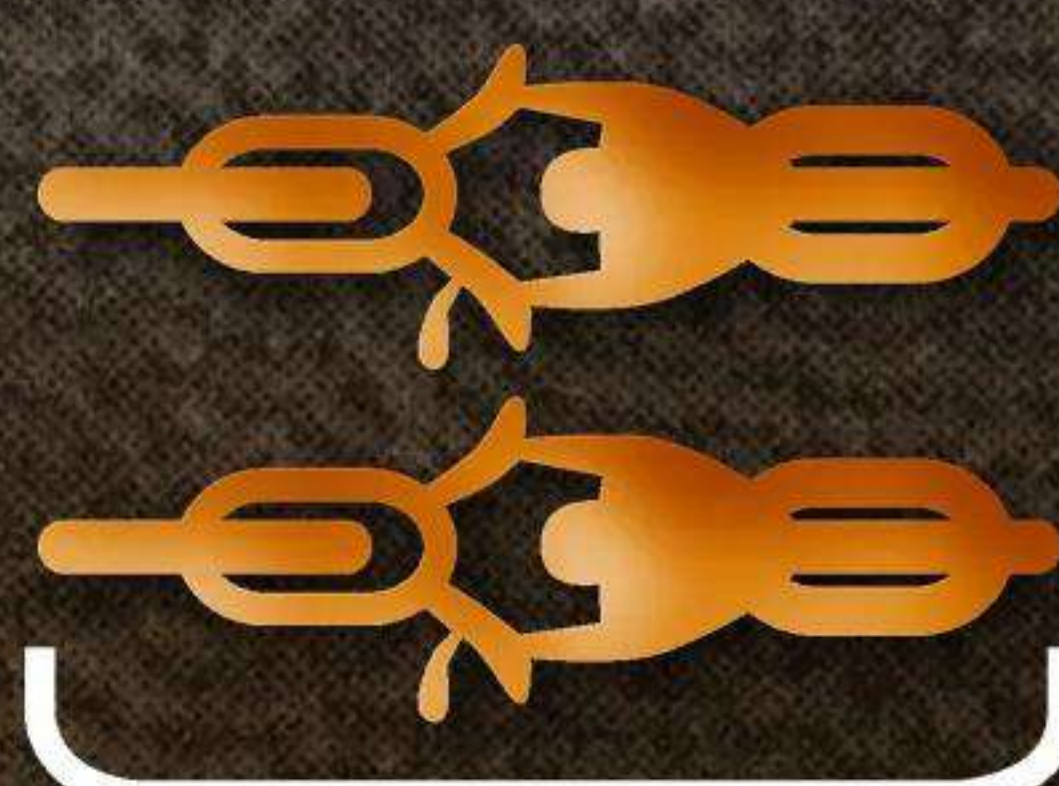
When Big Pete and his crew headed out on a run they would form themselves up on the highway in a tight formation that placed bikers in the line according to stature. As the boss Big Pete rode at the head of the group next to his road captain.

Traveling two abreast, the bikers would never break the speed limit: the sound of their engines would attract enough attention and scrutiny. On a run Big Pete and his crew wouldn't carry any guns or drugs. It wasn't a case of 'if' they'd get pulled over, it was

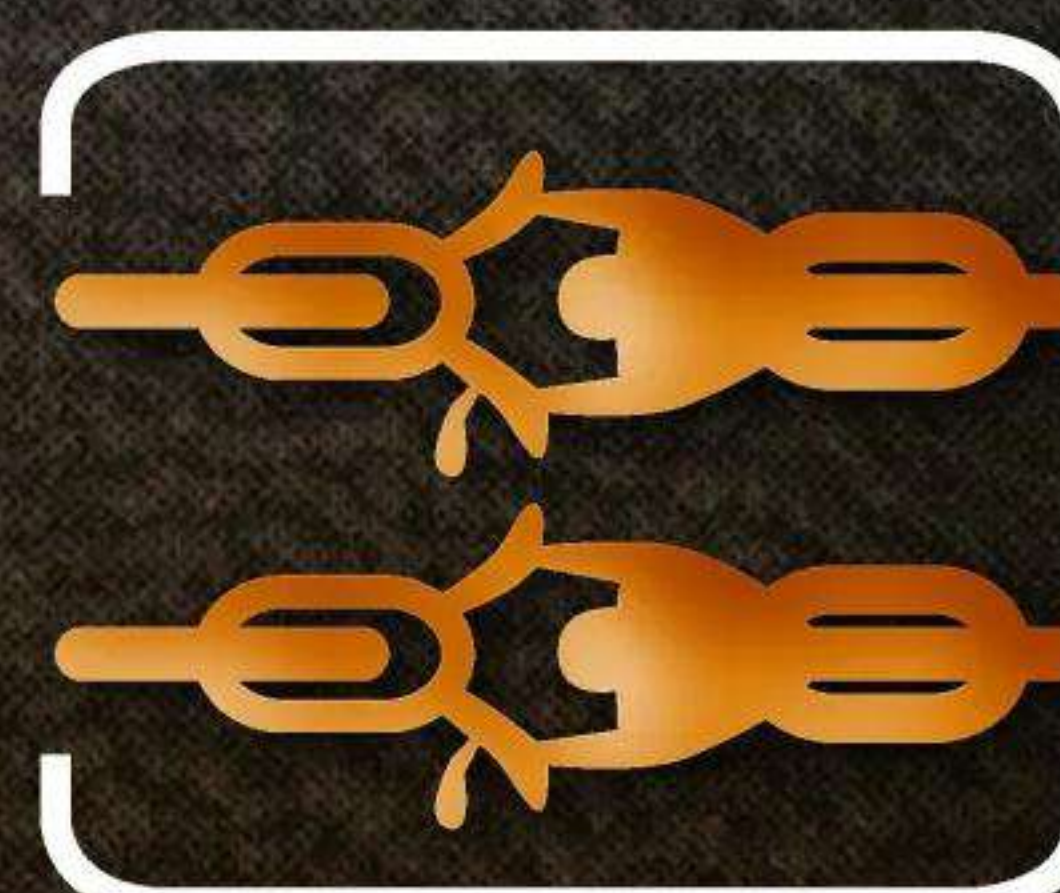
'when'. Precautions were taken, and all contraband items were stashed in the crash truck, which some prospects usually drove. By sticking to this rigid formation on their runs Big Pete and his club could get to where they were going without any arrests.



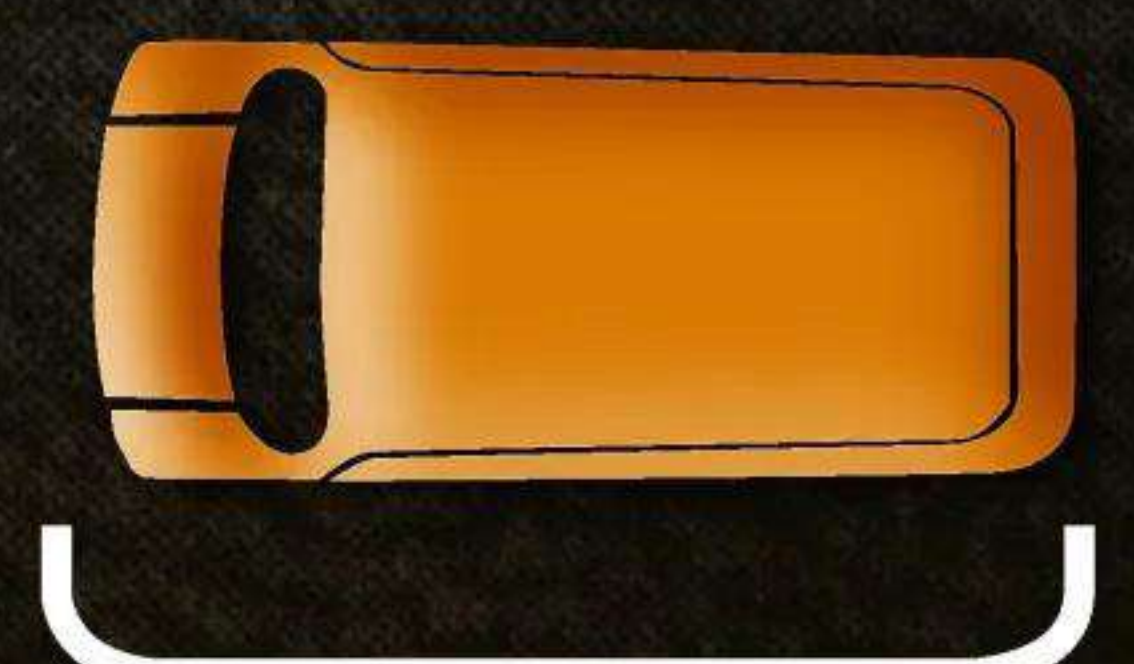
PROBATIONARY MEMBERS



ASSOCIATES OR HONORARY MEMBERS

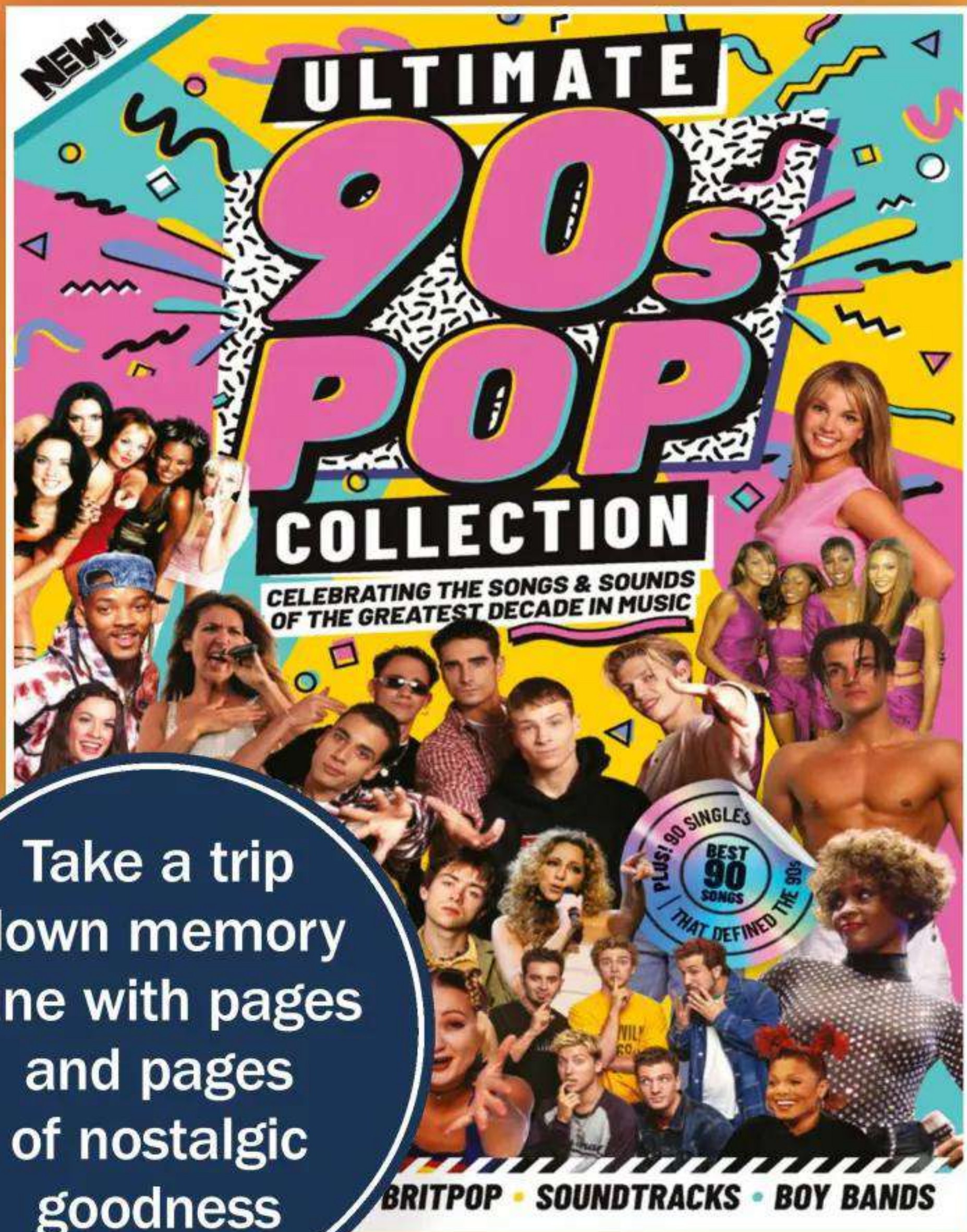


ASSISTANT ROAD CAPTAIN

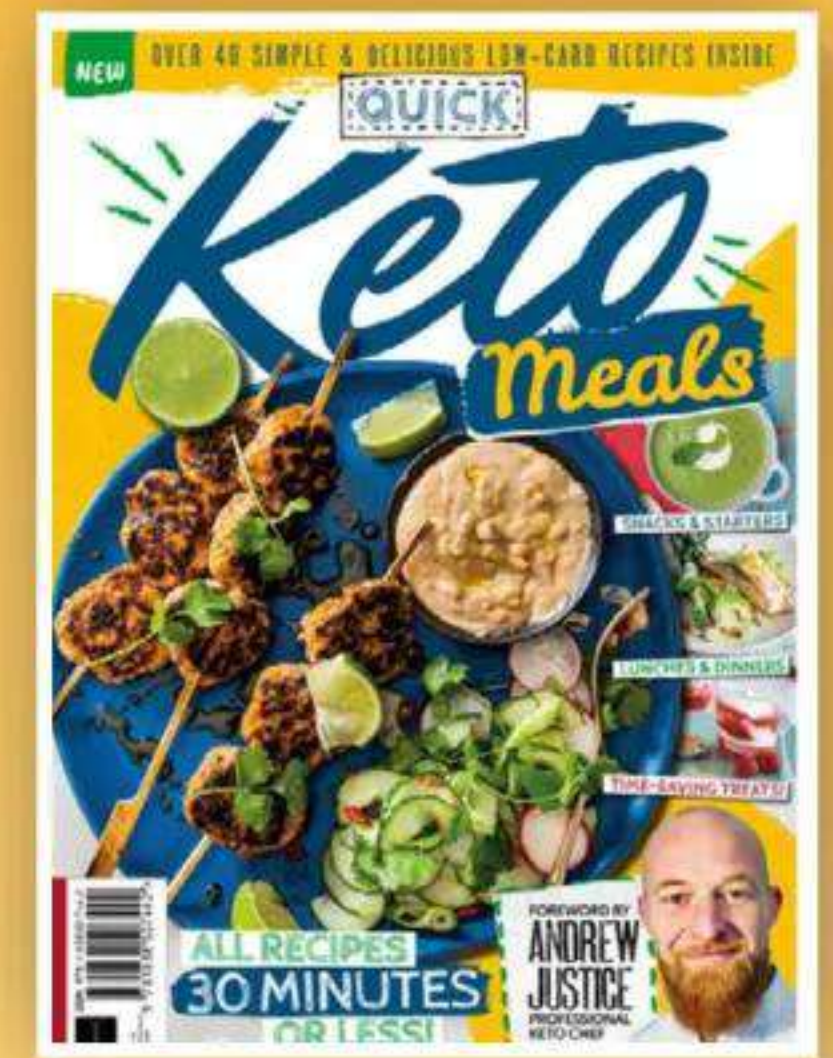


CRASH TRUCK
(usually 1.5 to two miles ahead or behind the pack, sometimes both)

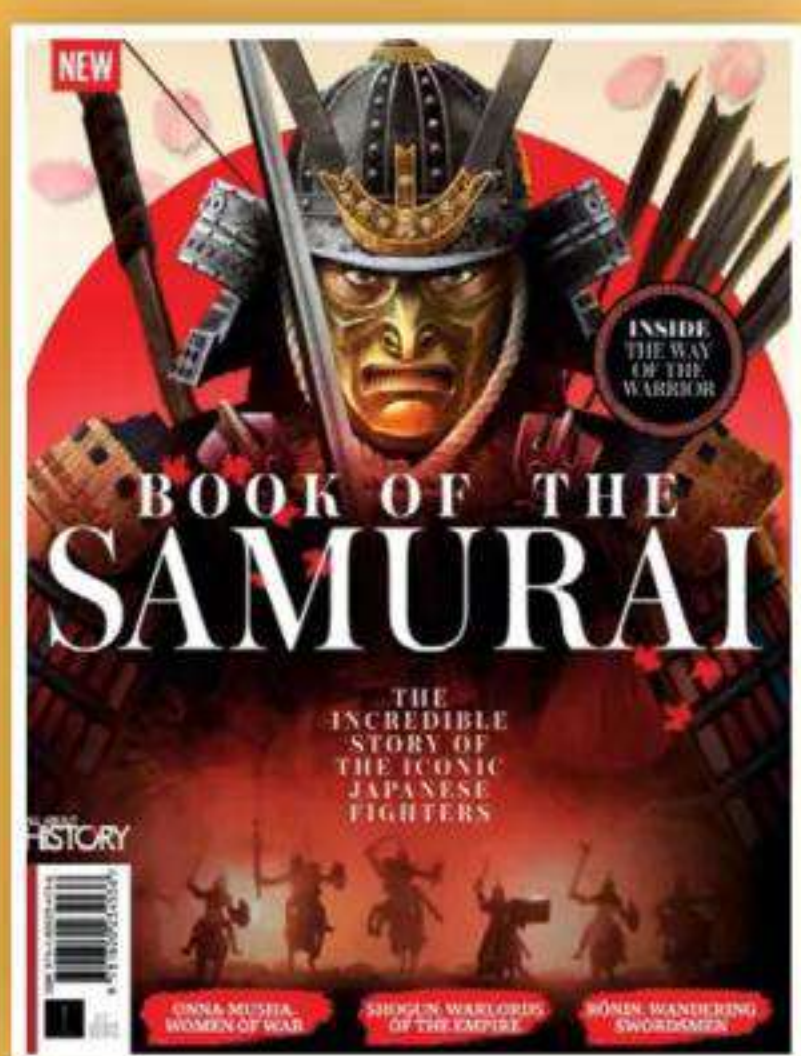
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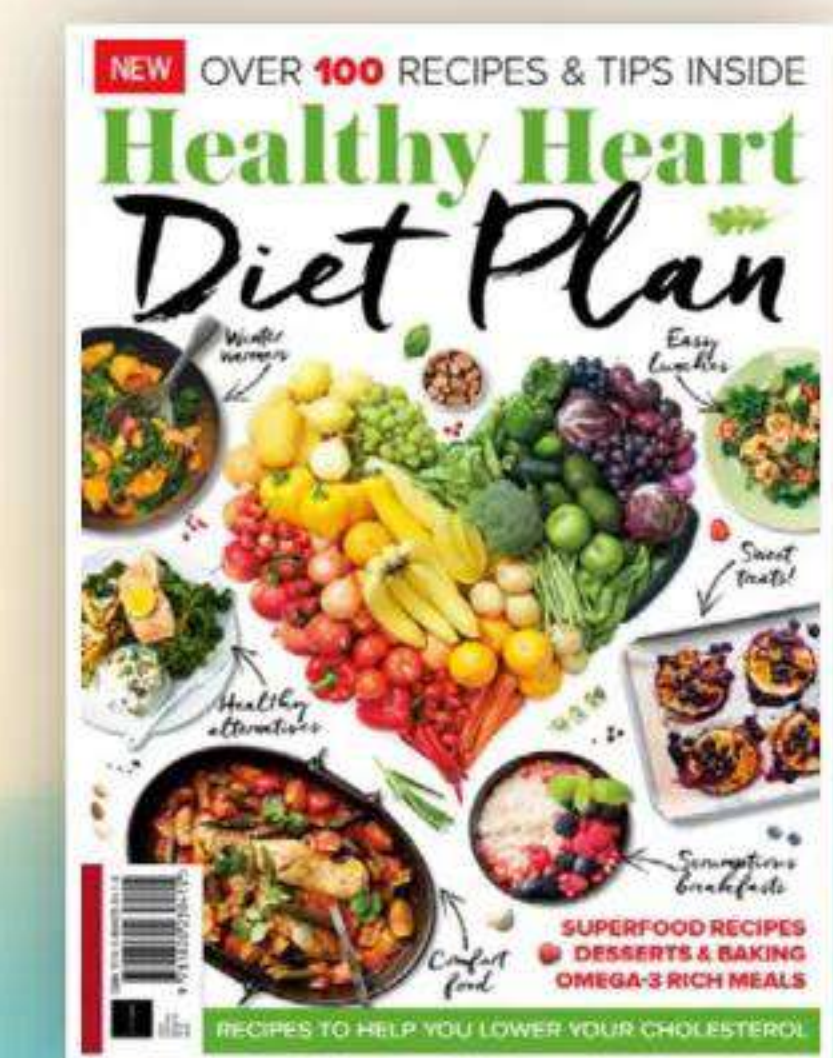
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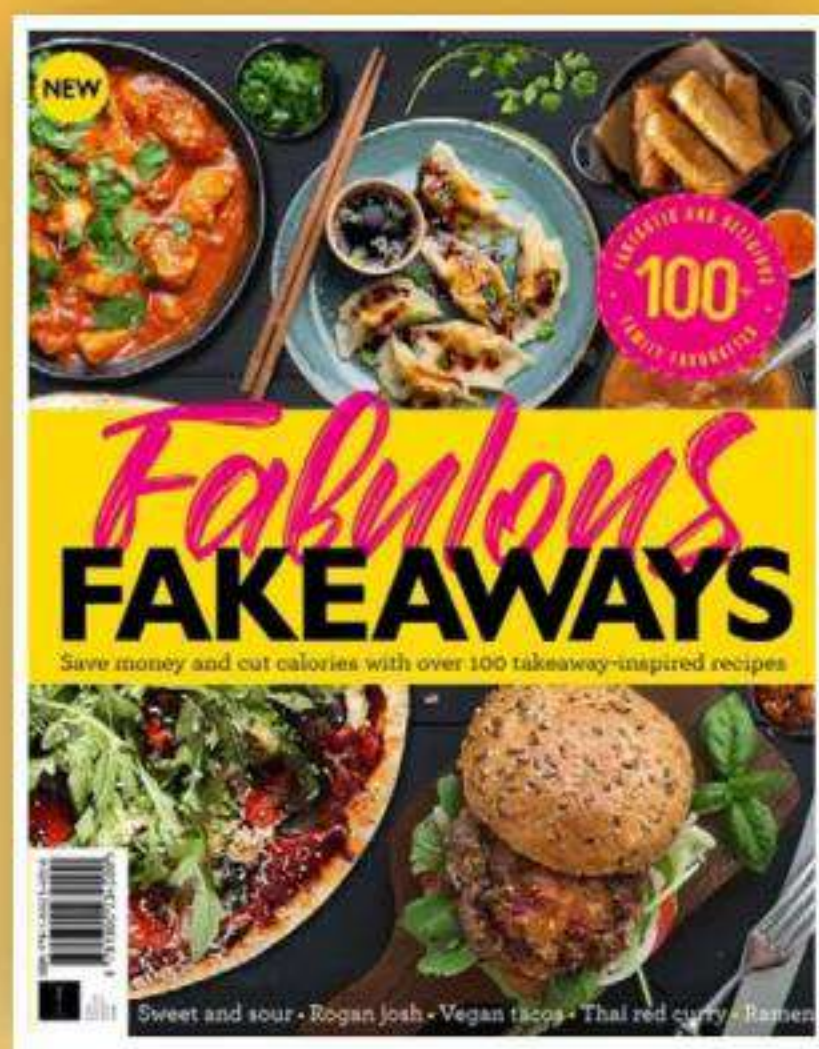
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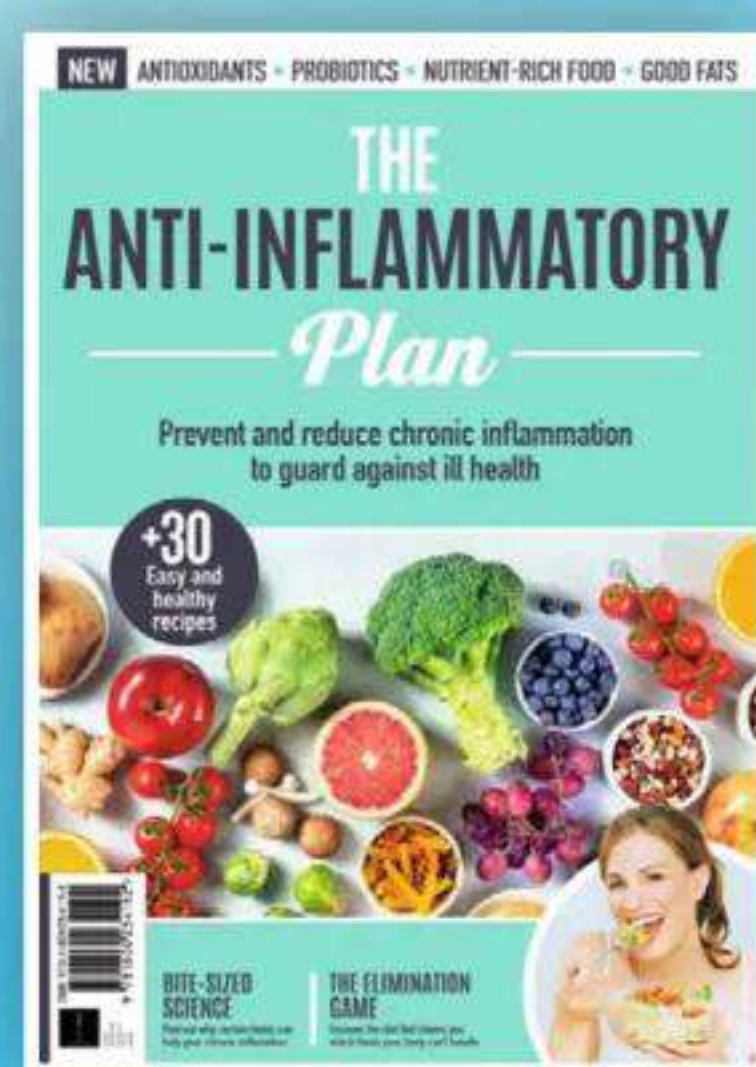
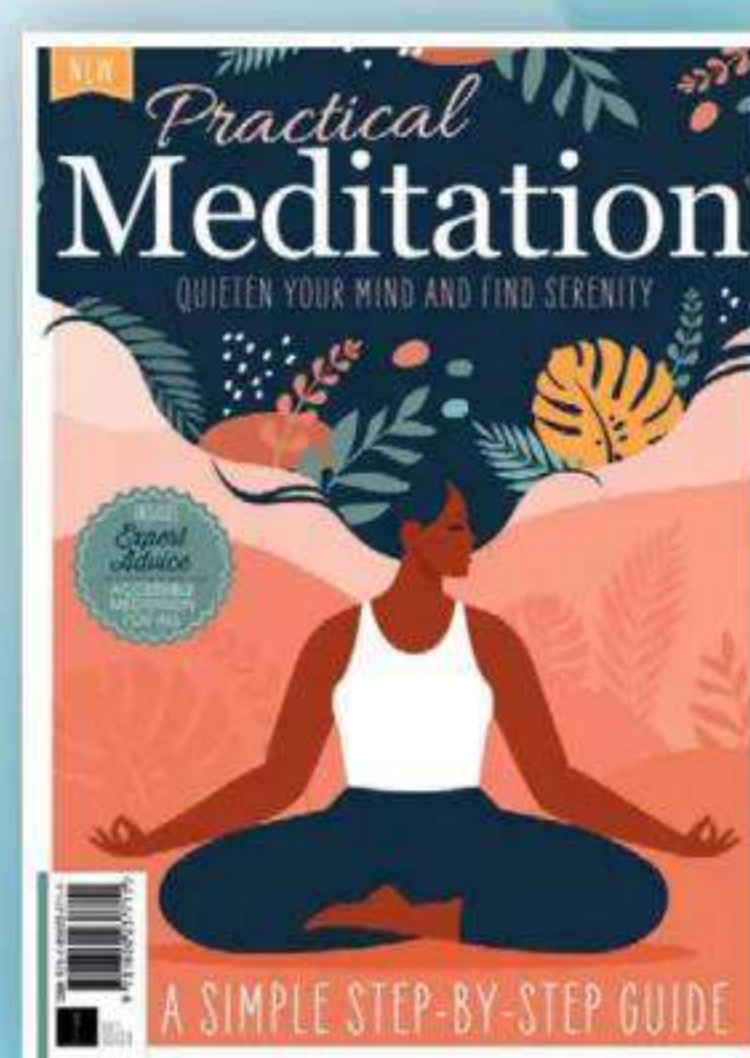
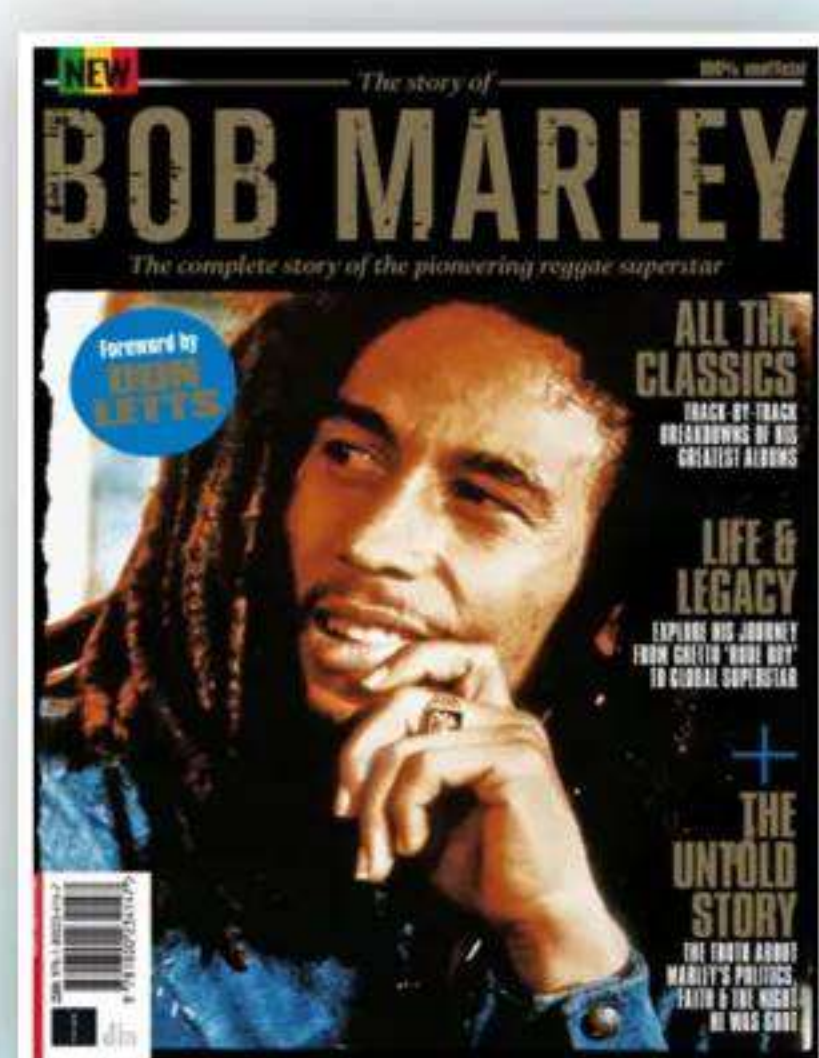


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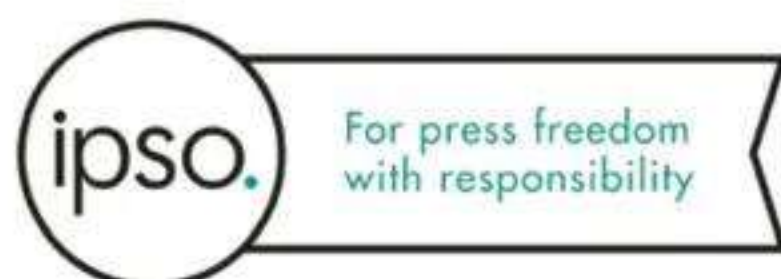


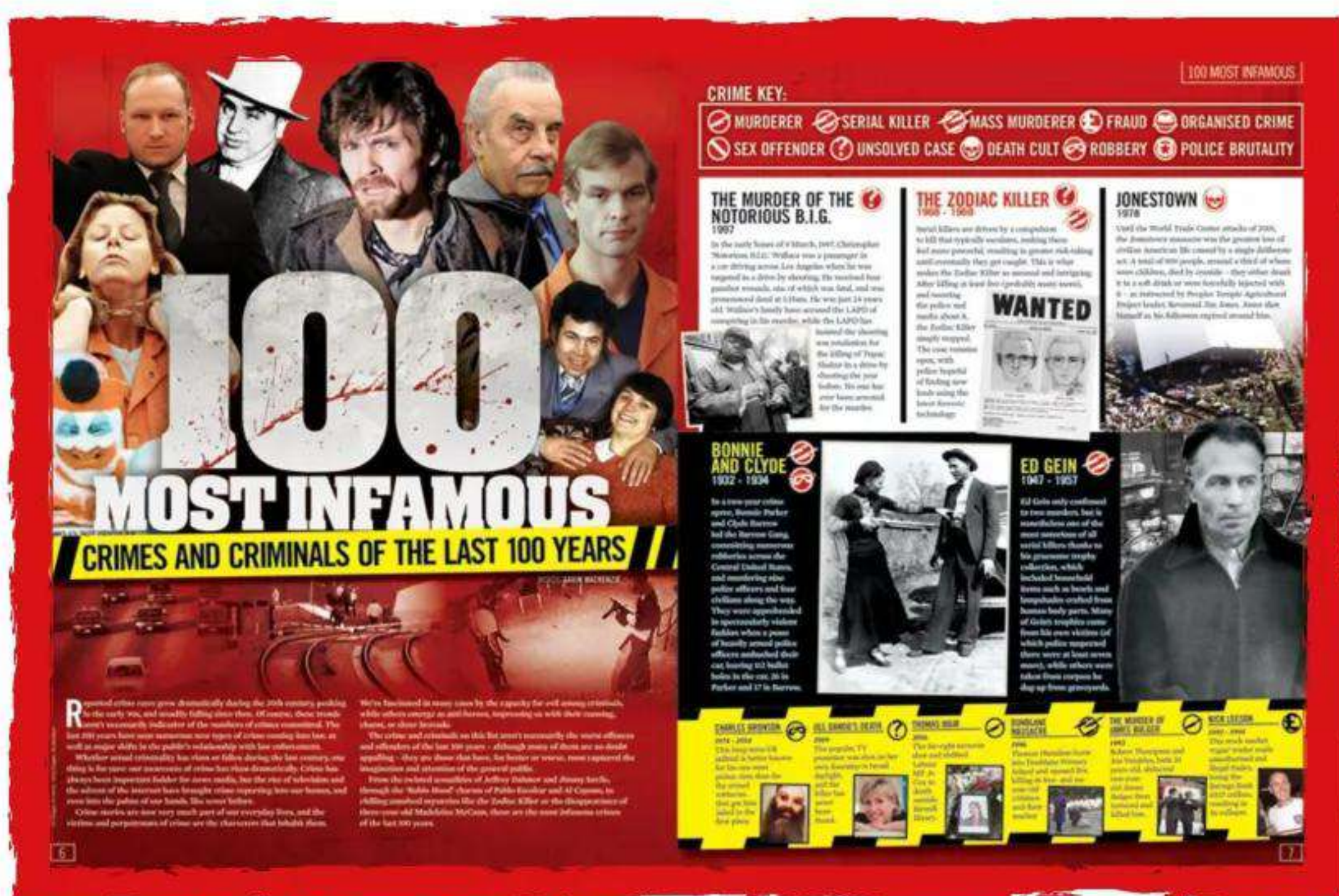
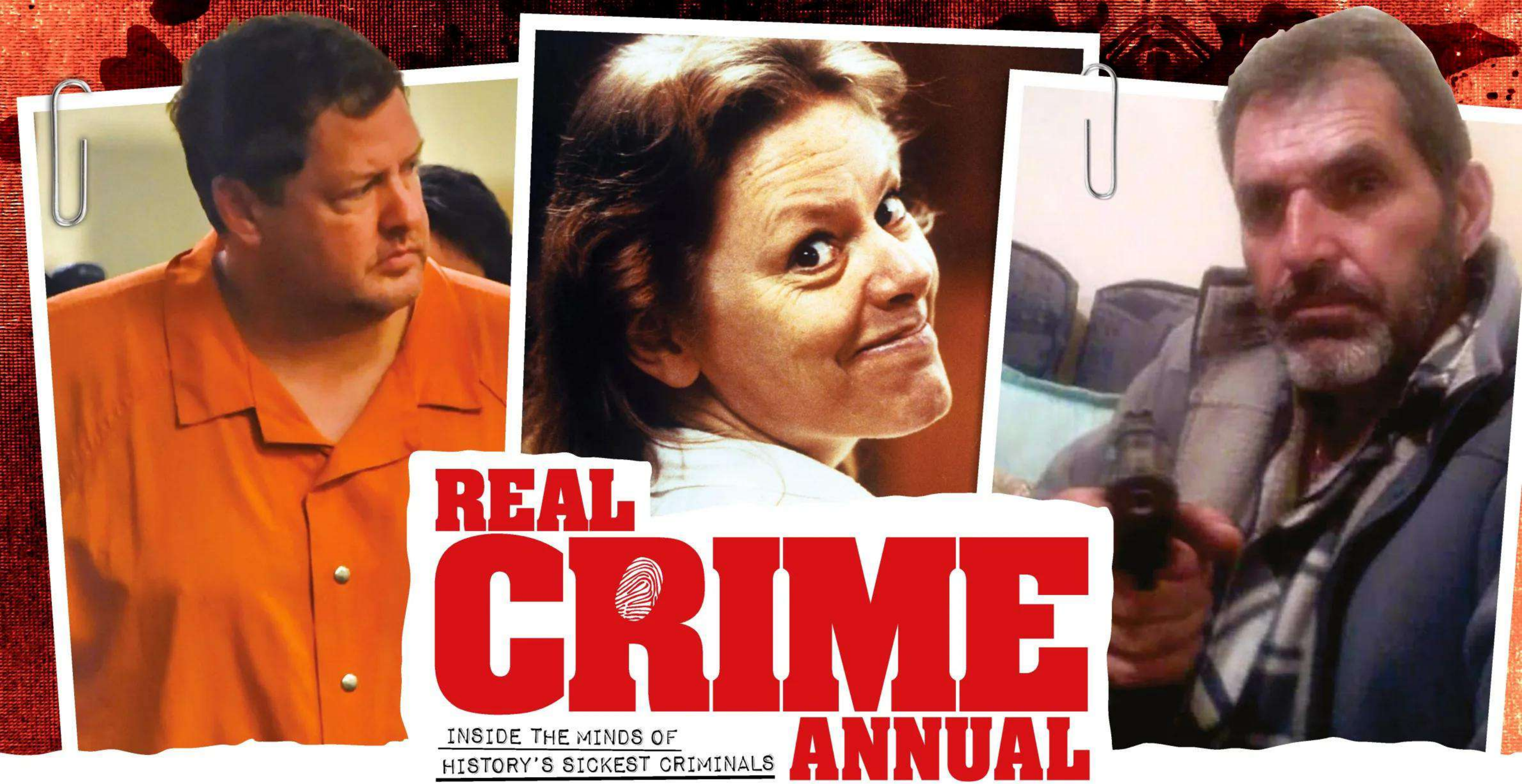
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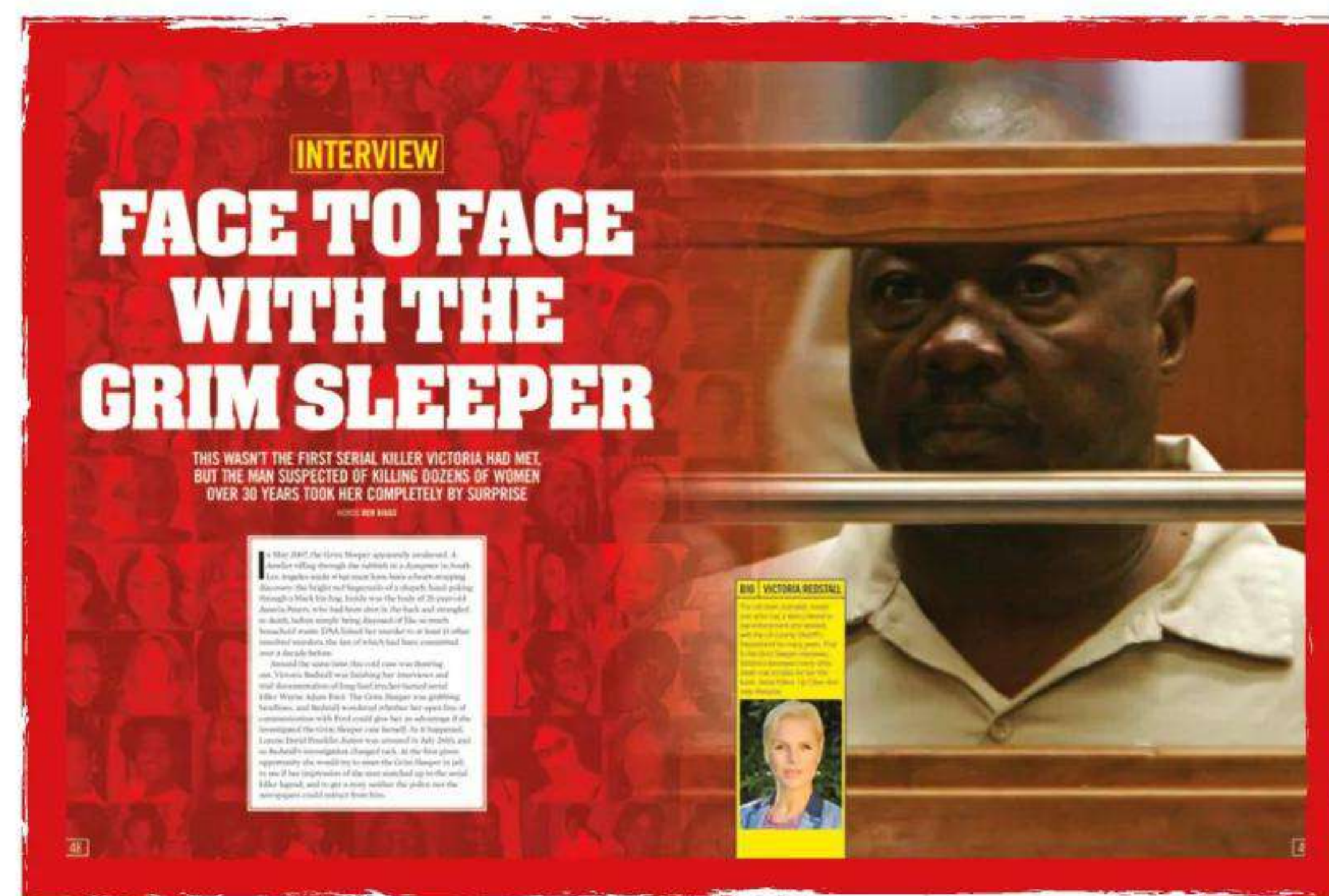
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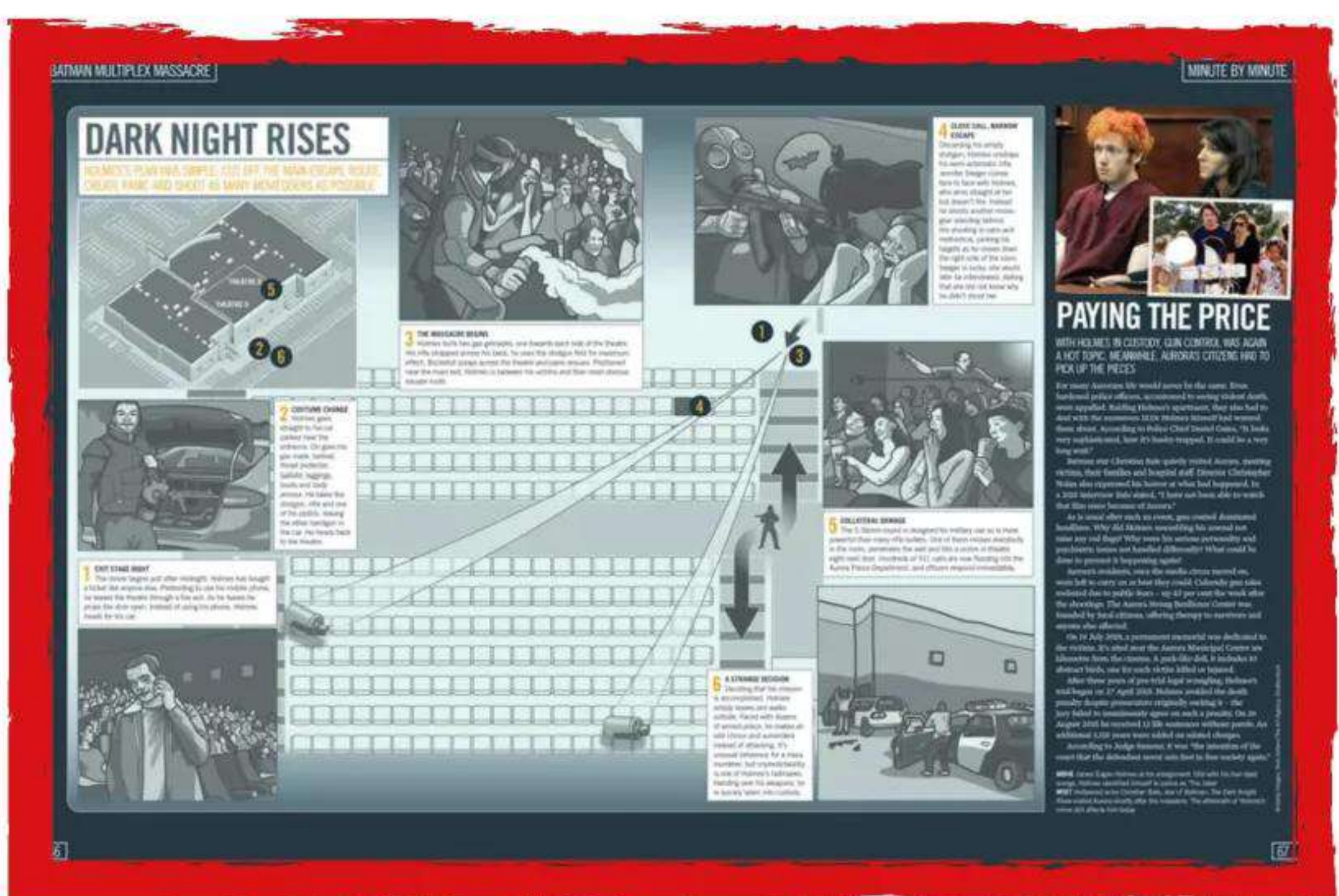
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THE GRIM SLEEPER

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MINUTE BY MINUTE

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MELBOURNE GANGS

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